

Building On Men's Faith Through Prayer

A PRAYER GUIDE FOR MEN FROM THE BOOK OF LUKE

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As I sat here at the Kirtland AFB service station writing prayers while I wait to get new tires, two fire trucks came roaring past. Something stirred in me as I saw these men rushing to meet danger head-on. That's the way men are. Danger, challenge and adventure stir us into action. As God opens our eyes to the spiritual war going on around us and the tremendous danger our families and our nation are in, we will find that we are involved in the biggest and most exciting battle in history. No enemy nation has ever posed a greater danger to our country than the present godlessness sweeping across our land. There is a coordinated plan to indoctrinate us and our families with godless, materialistic, humanistic philosophies that will destroy us spiritually. Although we are assured ultimate victory, we are at present losing "big time" because most Christian men have not shown up for the fight. The battle starts in prayer because our enemies are not people, but spiritual forces (Ephesians 6:12). An even greater danger to our country is the ever-increasing severity of the judgments of God that are falling upon us because of our national sins. For both problems, the battle starts in prayer. As we begin to seriously pray, the Lord will direct us in repentance for the sins of our land. He will also lead us into spiritual warfare against the enemy's forces. He will work through our prayers and our actions to enforce the victory He won on the cross over all the forces of hell. Man to man, I encourage you to pray these prayers fervently as if the lives of your family depended on it.

I know you could figure this out on your own, but let me walk you through how I would pray the prayers in this book. I'll do it by writing for you how I would pray Luke 1:4. This prayer is written as follows. "Father of my Lord Jesus Christ, cause me to know fully the things Jesus did and taught. As I pray Your word, cleanse me of any "untruth" and of any areas of unbelief in my life. Fill me with truth."

I would pray it like this. "Father, as I read through Luke and pray through this book, cause me to really understand and know what Jesus was doing and teaching. As I pray Your word back to You, build it into my life and point out things that I have been believing and saying that aren't true. See to it that I turn from untruth. Show me areas of unbelief where I really don't trust or act on Your word. Do what is necessary in me so I believe what You say. Fill me with truth. Since I know Jesus is truth, fill me full of Jesus so truth overflows from my life. Father, do these things in my wife and kids. Also, use me to help others know the truth and be cleansed from unbelief."

Then I would move on to the next verse in the book and pray it in my own words. I continue this process until I run out of time and then I mark where I left off with a paper clip. The next day I start at the paper clip and work my way through the book. I write notes beside prayers that are especially meaningful and come back to them several times.

Now for a final pep talk before you start. Your Father will do some powerful things in you and your family and in others as you pray these prayers. He has been wanting to do them for a long time and has been waiting for you to ask Him. Your enemy, the devil, will be very unhappy about you spending time praying God's word. Real prayer ruins everything he is trying to do to you and your family. He will try to get you to thumb through the book and lay it on the shelf. If he succeeds - he wins. He may also stir up some problems to try to scare you enough to get you to stop. Again, if he succeeds - he wins.

However, if you take the bad character quality of stubbornness that is in most of us men and let God turn it into the good quality of determination and stay with these prayers - you and your family win big time. What I mean is that I want you to decide right now that "come hell or high water" you are going to work through this book and lay up these prayers for yourself and your family.

As an added bonus, I am praying through these prayers and asking God to answer them in everyone who uses the book. Also, when you pray these prayers, you are essentially agreeing with me in prayer and two people agreeing release much more of God's power than one alone does.

Now let the prayers begin!!

Luke 1

The Holy Spirit, working through Luke, wrote this gospel so we could know for certain the truth about Jesus Christ. Until we know Jesus we don't really know truth, because Jesus is Truth.

Father of my Lord Jesus Christ, cause me to know fully the things Jesus did and taught. As I pray Your word, cleanse me of any "untruth" and of any areas of unbelief in my life. Fill me with truth.

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Zacharias and Elizabeth were described as those who were righteous before God and who walked blamelessly in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord.

Father, work in me with Your life changing power so I live righteously, walk blamelessly, and obey You completely. Show me any sin in my life and make sure I repent and change. 6

When they were younger, Zacharias and Elizabeth had almost certainly prayed for a child. God had said "yes" to those prayers and waited for His perfect timing for the birth of John the Baptist. Don't give up on those prayers you have prayed. God often waits until later to answer so He can answer bigger and better. Zacharias and Elizabeth not only had a child, but they were the parents of the greatest Old Testament type prophet and the forerunner of Christ.

Father, just as You waited for just the right time to answer Zacharias and Elizabeth's prayers for a child, don't let me give up on the prayers You have given me to pray. Keep me believing and persevering in faith until the answer comes. 13

The only explanation for the life and effectiveness of John the Baptist was that he was filled with the Holy Spirit.

Precious Father, so work in me, my wife and my children that we are filled with the Holy Spirit. Use us to turn many to a personal relationship with You. Do what is necessary to make my life powerful and effective in Your kingdom work. 15-16

** For those of you who are single, go ahead and pray the prayers related to wives and families and let your Father put them on "lay-away" for later. Your Father is willing to hear and answer these prayers now and then deliver the answer later when it is needed.**

John the Baptist was anointed with power to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, to turn the disobedient to God's ways and to get the people ready to meet Jesus. All these tasks still desperately need to be done today. Will you ask God to turn your heart to your children and to make you into the godly dad they need? Will you ask Him to use you to turn the hearts of other men to their children? Finally, will you ask Him to use you to turn the hearts of your children and other children to God?

Heavenly Father, turn my heart in greater measure than ever before toward my children and make me into the godly, caring dad they need. Use me to turn other men's hearts to their families. Work powerfully through me to turn the hearts of my children fully and completely to you. Use me in the lives of other children as you desire. Work through me to help change the mind of the disobedient. Use me to introduce people to a life changing relationship with Your Son, Jesus Christ. 17

When Zacharias doubted the messenger God had sent, he became speechless until God's word was fulfilled. God is speaking to us a lot more than we realize. Ask Him to make sure you don't miss or ignore anything He says.

Father, make sure I listen to and believe the messengers You send to me, whoever they are. Make sure I do what You tell me to do. 20

The young virgin Mary believed God and the impossible happened. She became the mother of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Father, cause me to believe and act on Your powerful word. Do seemingly impossible things in and through my life. As a result of the miraculous work You do, cause people to come to know You, the only true and living God. 37

Mary essentially said, "Here I am Lord, do whatever You want." The key to real success in this life is to humble yourself before God and tell Him you want Him to do whatever He wants with your life.

Lord Jesus, cause Your will to be done in me according to Your word. Do whatever is necessary to make sure I do what you want. 38

As Mary saw what God was doing, her response was praise and rejoicing.

Father, open my eyes to what You are doing around me. Fill me with praise and rejoicing and cause me to exalt You. 46-47

Mary's humility was probably one of the character qualities that allowed her to be picked to be the mother of Jesus. Pride and unbelief are the two biggest "wasters" of men's lives. Pride forces God to resist us, and unbelief limits what God can do in and through us.

Father, keep me humble and respectful toward You. Work powerfully to remove pride and unbelief from my life so I can be all You want me to be. 48-49

The Holy Spirit caused Mary to recognize that God pulls down the proud and lifts up the humble. Want to be lifted up by God? Then deal with pride.

Father, I agree with Your word. Scatter the proud and pull down wicked rulers. Exalt the humble in our land. Provide for the needs of the hungry. Make sure I am one of the humble of the land. 51-53

When word got out that the elderly, barren Elizabeth had a son, the people rejoiced and recognized God had shown great mercy. You once were held captive in the devil's kingdom. By God's mercy and grace, you have been set free and are changing to be like Jesus Christ.

Father, cause those around me to see the great mercy You have shown to me. Use me to help others to be set free. 57-58

When Zacharias believed and obeyed God's word, he was healed, the people were amazed, and God was glorified. You will never get anywhere in your Christian walk until you believe and act on God's word. Are you content to be a "pew warmer?" Or do you want to be the victorious, overcoming man of God you are destined to be? Get into God's word, the Bible, and get it into you. Read it and obey it. Let the mighty King, the Lion of Judah, the almighty Lord Jesus Christ make you into whom you were created to be.

Father, cause me to believe and obey Your word so You can do things in my life that cause people to revere and respect You. So work in my life that I am everything You created me to be. 63-65

God's promise to Abraham and His plan for us is that we be delivered from our enemies and serve Him in holiness and righteousness without fear all our days. Our biggest enemies are usually pride, unbelief, fear, rebellion against authority, doubt, moral impurity and materialism.

Father, so work in me with Your victorious life that You ensure my triumph over rebellion, moral impurity, materialism, fear, doubt, unbelief and pride. Enable me to serve You without fear. Cause me to walk in holiness and righteousness before You all my days. 74-75

Zacharias prophesied that John the Baptist would lead people to repentance and salvation and that He would lead people out of darkness into light. Jesus is still doing the same things through us.

Father, work through me to bring many to the knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of sins and faith in Jesus Christ. Use me to bring Your light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death. Use me to guide their feet into the way of peace. Don't let me ever chicken-out when You want me to tell someone about You. 77-79

John the Baptist grew and became strong in spirit. Isn't that what we want for ourselves and our families?

Heavenly Father, cause me, my wife, and my children to continue to grow stronger in spirit. Especially work in me as spiritual leader of my family to make me strong in spirit. 80

Luke 2

Those who stay in a close, intimate relationship with God get to know what He is doing. Simeon and Anna were told by the Holy Spirit that the baby Jesus would be the Messiah.

Father, just as You let Simeon and Anna in on what You were doing, please cause me to recognize and cooperate with Your activity in these days. Especially Father, show me what You are doing in my family so I can cooperate with You. 25-38

Just as Jesus was anointed with grace and grew physically and spiritually, so can we.

Heavenly Father, cause me and my family to grow and become strong spiritually, to increase in wisdom and to have Your grace upon us. 40

The sole focus of Jesus was to be about His Father's business. Ask Him to make that Your focus. Every believer is a minister. Make sure your part of the kingdom work gets done.

Lord Jesus, so work in me that I am constantly about the Father's business. Make sure I accomplish the work You have for me to do. 49

As Jesus respected and obeyed Mary and Joseph, He increased in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and men. These are things to pray for your children.

Father, cause my children to grow in true wisdom and not in the so-called wisdom of the world. Develop their stature physically, mentally and emotionally. Father, draw them into a deep, intimate relationship with You. Give them favor with those they relate to on the earth. Make me an excellent role model for them. 52

Luke 3

John the Baptist encouraged genuine repentance and warned them about depending on their ancestors' religion.

Father, when You call me to repent, make sure I change the wrong attitudes and actions in my life. Don't let me depend on the religious experiences of my spouse or upon my church membership. Make sure I have a real and growing relationship with You. 8

Luke 4

Jesus responded to temptations related to the lusts of the flesh, i.e. the hungers and desires of the body, by quoting from Deuteronomy 8:3 "It is written, man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God."

Father, when I am tempted with physical hungers and desires, feed me from Your word and keep my focus on You as You provide a way of escape from the temptation. Father, don't let me ever flirt with temptation by watching or reading wrong stuff or by allowing impure thoughts to keep playing through my mind. 4

To tempt Jesus with the lusts of the eyes, the devil showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and promised them to Jesus if He would worship the devil. We become like what we worship. The devil knew he could end the whole plan of salvation if he could get Jesus to worship him.

Father, make sure I worship and serve only You and my Lord Jesus Christ. Protect me from wanting the things I see. Cause me to desire and obtain only what You want me to have. 6-8

To tempt Jesus with the pride of life, the devil offered Jesus a shortcut to fame and success. Jesus chose to do things God's way.

Father, don't let me ever do something foolish to try to get You to respond in a spectacular way. Cause me to simply obey You day-by-day and allow You to make me known to those to whom I need to be known. Keep me so focused on the abundant life I have in You and all I have as a co-heir with Jesus that temptations in the area of the pride of life have little effect on me. 12

After the time of testing, Jesus was given power for ministry. The Lord has to develop our character to fit the ministry He gives and the power He releases through us.

Lord Jesus, so work in me that I walk in the power of the Spirit and can be trusted with Your power. Make sure I pass the tests that lead to the release of Your power. 14

When we see Jesus in the Bible, He is preaching the gospel to the poor, healing the brokenhearted, preaching deliverance to the captives, restoring sight to the blind and setting at liberty those that are in bondage. Now He does these things through us, His church.

Lord Jesus, anoint me to preach the gospel to the poor. (Everyone who doesn't know Jesus is poor.) Send me to proclaim release to the captive and recovery of sight to the blind. Use me to set free those who are downtrodden and to proclaim the freedom available through You, Lord. 18

When Jesus spoke, there was such authority and power that the people were astonished.

Lord, cause me to speak with Your authority in ways that penetrate the hearts of those who are listening. Cause me to gently and effectively exercise my God-given authority in the home. 32

Jesus did not spend much time with demons. He commanded them to be still so they didn't hurt people or put on some kind of dramatic show. Then He commanded them to come out.

Lord, whenever You bring people to me for deliverance, speak through me to command the demons to be quiet and come out. Be just as effective in setting people free through me as You were on the earth in the flesh. 35

Jesus rebuked the fever in Peter's mother-in-law and it left. He laid hands on the people who came and they were all healed.

Lord Jesus, work through me to rebuke illness when appropriate. Direct me in laying hands on sick people so You can heal them. Lord, receive all the glory as You do these things through me. 39-40

Luke 5

Jesus sent them out into the deep water for a catch of fish. Sometimes He sends us out into deep or unfamiliar waters to catch lost people for His kingdom. The catch was beyond anything they had ever experienced before and they had to call their partners to come and help. Are you willing to let Jesus take you into the "deep water" and do things that are bigger and more awesome than You can imagine?

Lord, whenever You want, send me out into the deep waters outside the church to catch lost people for Your kingdom. As I obey Your instructions, bring results far greater than I can even imagine. Send others to help so none of the catch is lost. 4-7

After the biggest catch of their lives, Jesus ask these fishermen to leave it all behind to follow Him and catch men for the kingdom. Be prepared as Jesus asks you to leave behind some things in order to be more effective in the kingdom.

Lord, use me to catch people for Your kingdom. Make sure I leave behind everything that will hinder my service to You and for You. 10-11

Jesus cleansed the leper, symbolic of the cleansing of sin available to all who would come to Him.

Lord, use me to tell others of Your willingness to cleanse people of sin like you cleansed this man of leprosy. In the same way, work through me to heal those who see You in my life and come to me for help. More than anything, work in me to set me free from every stronghold that is in my life. 12-13

Prayer and power are very closely connected in Jesus' life.

Lord Jesus Christ, make sure I consistently get alone with You in prayer. So work in me that You can express Your power through my life. 16-17

When Jesus saw the faith of the men, He forgave the sins of the paralyzed man and healed him. Our faith can have a part in helping others find healing and salvation in Jesus.

Release in me the faith to believe for the healing and salvation of those around me who are sick and lost. 19-20

Jesus could help only those who realized they needed His help and asked for it. Many times when people tell us their problems or mention spiritual things or even when they tease us about our faith - they are asking in the only way they know how for spiritual help. Be ready to respond as the Lord prompts.

Lord, cause me to recognize those who know they need Your help. Work through me to bring them to repentance and salvation. Give them wise, spiritual counsel through me. 32

Jesus said that after He was taken away, then His disciples would fast. Thus He indicated that fasting would be a normal part of a Christian's life. Ever tried fasting? It is a way of telling your Father that you are serious about your walk with Him. It allows Him to reveal Himself in a deeper way to you. There are some spiritual victories that will not be won apart from fasting. Besides all this, a day of fasting is very healthy for almost everyone, except perhaps for those with some special medical condition. It will also humble you by showing you how much your stomach controls you.

Lord Jesus, teach me to fast and pray and make sure I fast and pray whenever You want. 34-35

Those who are content with things as they are will burst like an old wineskin full of new wine before they will change. New life usually requires a new group and a fresh start.

Father, keep me from trying to introduce new life into places where it will only cause problems. Send me to individuals or groups that are able to contain the new life You want to release. Keep me from becoming an old, inflexible wineskin. 37-39

Luke 6

Jesus spent all night in prayer before He made the big decision of who to call as His disciples. Maybe we need to spend some nights in prayer for our families, our church and our nation.

Father, bring Your churches to the place where they spend concentrated time, even whole nights, in prayer. Stir me to concentrated times of prayer before big decisions. 12

After the night of prayer in verse twelve, Jesus went down from the mountain and power was flowing out of Him and everyone was being healed.

Lord, so work in me and in Your church that Your power can flow through us to heal people spiritually, emotionally and physically. 19

Jesus looked at His disciples and explained that even though they didn't have much at present, they were joint owners of the kingdom. However much we have here, it is insignificant compared to the eternal treasures and blessings that are ours.

Lord, thank You for taking me out of my poverty and making me a joint-heir in Your kingdom. Open my eyes to how much I already own for all eternity so I can be set free from trying to collect stuff down here. 20

Those who are spiritually hungry now are the ones ready to be filled with the abundance that comes from knowing and experiencing God. We weep now over the sin and hurt around us, but heaven contains joy and laughter forever for those who have put their faith in Jesus Christ for salvation.

Use me to feed those who are spiritually hungry and to help those in sorrow to be filled with Your joy. 21

Jesus didn't say, "if we are hated." He said, "when you are hated, reproached and called evil, you are to rejoice and leap for joy."

Lord, when I am hated, avoided and insulted because of my relationship with You, fill me with overflowing gladness and joy. 22-23

Jesus pointed out that being rich in this world but being empty spiritually will be disastrous in eternity.

Father, use me to warn lost people who are rich, well fed and full of laughter that eternal hunger, mourning and weeping are coming if they do not repent and trust in You. 25-26

Jesus gives a series of commands that are impossible to do in our own strength. Only He can enable us to respond correctly to those who hurt us.

Lord Jesus, so work in me that I:

Love my enemies. 27

Do good to these who hate me. 27

Bless those who curse me. 28

Pray for those who mistreat me. 28

Give to those who ask of me. 28

Do not withhold that which is demanded of me. 29

Respond properly to those who take away what is mine. 30

Treat others the way I want them to treat me. 31

Love my enemies and do good and lend without expecting repayment. 35

Am merciful just like you are. 36

Do not, in any way, judge or condemn others. 37

Am not a blind guide. 39

Am like You, my Teacher. 40

Deal with my own sins before I try to help point out sins in others. 42

In context, verse thirty-eight talks about giving forgiveness and receiving it back in abundance from others. However, the principle of giving applies to everything we do. Whatever we give out, good or bad, comes back to us in a greater measure.

Lord, make me into a giver who gives out good things in good measure to others. Don't let me be content giving a little time, energy, and money when it is convenient. Make sure I am a real giver like You are. Don't let me give out judgment, condemnation, ridicule, or anything that harms others. 38

Jesus said that whatever fills our heart will come out through our life. Our tongue reveals what fills our heart. What do you talk about a lot?

Lord, cause a constant flow of good to come out of the new heart You have given me. Fill my heart with Yourself. Empty me of everything that gets in Your way. 45

What we do is a much better indicator of what we believe than what we say.

Jesus Christ, You are my Lord. Make sure I do what You say to do. 46

Whoever hears what Jesus is saying and obeys Him is like the wise man who built his house on the rock. Is there anything that Jesus is saying to you that you are refusing to obey? If so, you are in real danger. Tell a godly friend about it and ask him to pray for you and check on you until you obey.

Jesus, make sure I hear Your words and act upon them and become like the wise man who built his house on a rock and was unaffected by the storms of life. Use me to warn others of the tragic consequences of hearing Your word and not obeying it. 47-49

Luke 7

Jesus was very pleased with the faith of the humble Centurion who knew he was not worthy but sent messengers asking Jesus to command that his servant be healed.

Lord, build in me humility and faith that pleases You. 2-10

Jesus tells the messengers sent from John the Baptist to go back to John and report the things they have seen. They had witnessed kingdom things like healing the blind, lame, lepers, deaf, the raising of the dead, and preaching the gospel.

Jesus, work through me as much as You can trust me, to cause the blind to see, the lame to walk, the deaf to hear, the sick to be made well and the dead to be raised to life. Most of all, use me to share the gospel with those to whom You send me. Open my eyes to see what You are doing so I never waiver in my faith and trust in You. 22-23

Jesus tells two parables about the great love of those who realize they have been forgiven great debts. Think about your own debt and how you would have had to pay in hell forever if Jesus had not taken hell's punishment for you.

Father, open my spiritual eyes to see how much I have been forgiven and cause me to love You and Jesus with all my heart. 37-47

Luke 8

Jesus went everywhere proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. He was also teaching His disciples to do the same.

Lord, make me effective in introducing people to You and Your kingdom. 1

This parable is really about soil. The seed (the word of God) was good but it needed good soil to grow in. We need to focus on putting lots of God's word (good seed) into our lives. We cooperate with Him in breaking up hard places in our lives and dealing with cares and riches and pleasures of life.

Lord, work on the soil of my life so there are no hard places. Set me free from the cares of the world and the pursuit of riches and pleasure. Make me into good soil that produces hundredfold increases. Make sure I see, hear, understand and obey Your word. 5-10

Jesus said good soil is like those with honest and good hearts who hear and obey the word and patiently bear fruit.

Heavenly Father, cause me to hear Your word with an honest and good heart. Make sure I hold fast to Your word and steadily bear fruit for Your kingdom. 15

Nothing in our life is a secret to God, but sometimes He has to allow pressure or tests to come into our lives so sin in our lives can be exposed and cleansed. We men usually try to cover up our weak areas. However, the weaknesses only come back again and again causing problems. God exposes them so He can fix them, usually through the help of others. That is why it is important to have at least a couple of godly friends with whom you can be open and honest. You need those who will pray with you, talk straight with you, and help you get fixed.

Father, expose things in my life that You want to cleanse or remove. Give me some godly friends that I can share openly with so I can be healed and cleansed. 17

I think verse eighteen is saying that if we have Jesus we have everything. If we don't have Jesus, we lose everything we think we have.

Thank You, Father, for giving me Jesus and with Him, everything I need. Use me to tell those who don't know Jesus that without Him they will lose everything. 18

Jesus said that those in a close relationship with Him hear and obey His word. Nothing is more important than your close, intimate relationship with Jesus. To stay close we have to obey.

Lord, make sure I obey when You speak to me through Your word or in my spirit. 21

Jesus' command was to go to the other side of the lake. When God commands something, He is always willing to provide the power and resources we need to carry out His commands. When they woke Him because of the storm, He said, "Where is Your faith" implying that they had the power necessary to take care of the storm, since He had commanded them to go to the other side. Whatever assignment God gives you, He will always provide all you need to accomplish it. However, you have to ask and believe for what you need.

Lord, when You tell me to go somewhere or do something, make sure I stand and rebuke anything or anyone who tries to stop me from carrying out Your instructions. See to it that I pray and believe You for everything I need to accomplish the assignment You give me. 22-25

Many are in bondage to demonic voices, fears, angers, lusts and all sorts of demonic evil. This man had everything wrong with him and yet Jesus set him completely free. Has the devil convinced you that there are things in your life from which you will never be set free? It's a lie. Ask Jesus to bring people into your life that can help you be set free.

Lord Jesus, You know the areas in my life in which I am in bondage and need to be set free. If necessary, bring those into my life that can pray with me and for me until I am free. Your word in Romans 6:14 says that sin shall not have dominion over me. Thank You that You are in the process of performing that word in my life. As You set me free, use me to set other people free mentally, emotionally, and spiritually like You did this man with the legion of demons. 27-33

After Jesus set this man free from the legion of demons, the people came out from the villages and asked Jesus to leave. The delivered man wanted to go with Jesus, but Jesus told him to stay and tell everyone what God had done for Him. Later, when Jesus came back to this area, the people welcomed Him, probably because of the witness of this man who went to every city and told about the great things Jesus had done for him.

Lord, so work in me that I boldly proclaim all the great things You have done for me. 39

The woman knew that if she could just "touch" Jesus, she would be healed. We can "touch" Him in prayer for healing for ourselves and others.

Cause me to touch You in prayer, Lord, like this woman touched Your garments. Speak peace to me like You did to her and make me well inside. 43-48

Fear weakens faith. Jesus told Jairus to not fear, but to believe. Are there areas where Satan has built fear into your life? Start praying about them because Jesus does not want us to fear anything or anyone but God.

Father, keep me from being afraid when a crisis comes. Cause me to believe You and trust You. 50

Luke 9

I think the authority and power that Jesus gave to the twelve and later to the seventy is also available to all believers.

Lord, so work in my life that You can give me power and authority over all the demons and power to heal diseases. Use me to proclaim the kingdom of God and to perform healing. 1-2

Jesus took what they had and broke it and gave it to the multitudes. He wants to take what we have and use it to minister to those around us. When it was over, the disciples actually had more than they started with and nothing was lost.

Lord, break what You have given me and use it to feed many who are around my life. Keep me from wasting any of the blessings You give. 17

We deny our own goals, desires and ambitions in order to serve Jesus. If we insist on being the boss in our life here on earth, we lose out in eternity.

Father, make sure I deny myself and every day realize my position of being dead to self and alive to You. Keep me from trying to hang on to my self-life. Cause me to lose myself in Your kingdom work. Use me to help others do the same. Don't let me waste my life focusing on worldly things. 23-25

The devil constantly reminds us of our failures and inadequacies in order to make us ashamed to tell others about Jesus. If we saw a house on fire or a child in danger, we wouldn't look at our inadequacies but because of the need we would rush to warn or help if we could. People without Jesus are in eternal danger. Let their great need motivate us to look past our weaknesses and point them to Jesus.

Lord Jesus, don't let me ever, ever, be ashamed of You and Your word. Convince me that I have what those around me need and make sure I take advantage of every opportunity You give to share my faith. 26

The transfiguration was a preview of the glory Jesus now has. Some of the paintings of Jesus have given us the idea that Jesus was a wimp. When we next see Him, we will see an awesome conquering king. Standing beside Him there is no place on earth or in hell we would be afraid to go and no enemy we would be afraid to face. We need to let Him reveal to us who we really serve.

Cause me to get glimpses of Your glory, Lord. Cleanse me of man's ideas and reveal to me all I can stand of Your glory and majesty. 29

We must not allow anyone or anything to take our focus off the Lord Jesus Christ.

Father, make sure I listen to Your Son, Your Chosen One. 35

Separated from Jesus for a time, nine of the disciples had been attempting to heal a demon possessed child, but without success. When Jesus came, the child was healed! After the resurrection, Jesus came to live in the disciples and they were never separated from Him again and there were no more recorded instance of them being unable to heal and deliver those who were sick.

Precious Lord Jesus, You live in me and I am not separated from You. Whenever I am confronted with a sickness or a demonic possession, tell me exactly what You want to do. Make sure the needs of the people You send to me are met. 38-42

Jesus caught them arguing over who would be the greatest and pointed them to the place of humility and service. Ever catch yourself grabbing for "position?"

Lord Jesus, keep my focus on serving You. Don't let me grab for position and power. 46

Jesus said that whoever receives a child in His name receives Him. We need to receive those He sends to us. Can Jesus send really needy people to you for help?

Father, make sure I receive those You send to me and allow You to love them through me. 48

John saw another person casting out demons and told him to stop since he wasn't part of Jesus' little group. John quickly learned that he was not to hinder those who were seeking to serve God.

Father, don't let me ever hinder those who are serving You. 50

On my sister's farm in Kentucky, it was hard enough to keep the tractor pointed straight ahead even when I was looking straight ahead. Looking back always causes us to get off track and can hinder our forward progress.

Jesus, don't let me ever focus on the things I left behind to follow You. Keep my focus on You and the task ahead. 62

Luke 10

The harvest is larger than ever and the need for workers is enormous. The instruction is to pray for workers. Are you a worker? Are you praying for and helping equip other workers?

Lord of the harvest, raise up all the workers needed for today's harvest. So work in me that I am a faithful worker in the harvest. Use me to help disciple and equip other men as workers. Especially use me to train my kids for kingdom work. 2

As believers, we also can speak a blessing of peace to those who open their homes to us.

Prompt me to speak a blessing of peace upon homes as you direct. 5

Wherever the disciples went, they were to heal the sick and tell the people about the kingdom of God.

Lord, wherever You send me, use me to heal the sick, tell them how much You love them and tell them about Your kingdom. 9

Jesus told the disciples that people would hear from Him through them. When they were rejected it would be because people were rejecting Jesus. Has fear of rejection caused you to be hesitant about sharing your faith?

Make me realize that, when people reject the gospel, they aren't rejecting me, they are rejecting You. Lord, make sure people hear from You through me. 16

Jesus knew the devil would use all the means at his disposal to resist those spreading the gospel. Therefore, He gave the necessary power to overcome the enemy's activity.

Father, make sure I use, as necessary, the power to tread upon serpents, scorpions and over all the power of the enemy. Keep anything from being able to harm me as I am doing Your work. 19

Jesus said they were not to get too excited about their power over the enemy. They were to focus their excitement on the fact that their names were in the book of life in heaven. This means that the most exciting thing in our life is knowing that we are God's kids and will experience His perfect love forever.

Father, fill me with a growing love and appreciation for You and the eternal life You have given me. 20

Jesus was excited that God made the truth of the kingdom available to simple, humble people.

Lord Jesus, work through me to take the truth that is foolishness to the so-called wise and intelligent and reveal it to the humble people who are ready to listen. Lord, continue to reveal the Father to me and to others through me. 21-22

First we need to recognize those to whom we are to be "neighbors." Then we express the love of Christ to them.

Precious Lord Jesus, make sure I recognize those "neighbors" You place in my path and express Your love to them. 33-37

The world conducts extensive, performance oriented, Martha type classes. It teaches us to always be doing and to expect to be accepted and loved only if we perform well. The Bible calls us to focus on Jesus and fall in love with Him. The world and even many Christians won't understand as we seek to lose our lives in Jesus. We always find Mary at the feet of Jesus.

Lord Jesus Christ, cleanse me of Martha type worry and anxiety. Teach me to be more like Mary and to focus on You, the one thing necessary. Make sure I am involved in things that will last into eternity. Keep me from yielding to the pressures of the worldly men around me. 42

Luke 11

The disciples didn't ask to be taught how to pray. They ask to be taught "to pray." We learn prayer by spending time talking with and listening to God. We can accelerate the learning process if we pray with those who have learned to pray, and by praying God's word back to Him like you are doing. Do you have a consistent prayer life? Do you pray regularly with your wife? Do you have one or more men that you pray with regularly? If not, these are your next assignments.

Lord, teach me to regularly spend time with You in prayer. Make my prayer life much more effective than it presently is. Lead me into regular prayer times with my wife and make them very powerful times for us. Give me one or more Christian brothers to pray with on a regular basis. 1

In this model prayer, Jesus identifies the areas in which we should focus our prayers. He starts with praise and worship. We take time to realize Who we are talking to and express love to Him with our words. Next, He instructs us to pray for the kingdom. Here we pray for our spiritual needs and those needs of people around us. Next we pray for physical needs like resources, jobs, healing, etc. Next we confess sins and receive forgiveness. Here we forgive anyone we need to forgive. This is a good place to choose in our will to forgive anyone who will wrong us during the day. We then pray that God will keep us from temptation and protect us from the plans of the devil. Finally we end with praise.

Eternal Father, I do praise Your wonderful name. Thank You for loving me so much. Lord, use me to cause Your kingdom to come and Your will to be done. Teach me to concentrate prayers on things related to the kingdom. Please take care of my physical and material needs today. Teach me to pray specifically in faith for what I or others around me need. Point out where I have sinned so I can confess it. Make sure I forgive whenever I am wronged. Keep me away from every temptation that isn't absolutely essential for my spiritual growth. Deliver me from the tricks, traps and deceptions the devil has planned against me. Lord, I praise You that You are in control and will be forever. 2-4

Jesus follows the model prayer with a story about persistence because He knew there would be many time when we will have to hang on until God answers. It's not that we have to convince a reluctant God. Somehow in God's economy, He is able to answer bigger and better if we are persistent and battle for a time in prayer. Hunting, fishing, athletic events and our jobs constantly remind us that persistence pays. How much more we need to persist in prayer for things we know He wants us to have.

Father, release in me that urgent persistence in prayer that allows You to do the things You want to do. Keep me focused, encouraged and persistent until You give in the fullest measure the answers You want to give. 5-8

Our job is to keep on asking, seeking and knocking for everything we need for the kingdom. The Father's part is to give, to cause us to find and to open the way for us.

Father, see to it that I keep on asking and receiving. Make sure I seek what You want me to seek and find it. Cause me to knock so You can open doors for me. 9-10

Our part is to ask as specifically as we know how. The Father will then give what we really need because He knows how to give good gifts. He also releases the Holy Spirit in our lives to make us more like Jesus and empower us for ministry.

Father, stir me to specific, faith-filled prayers that allow You to give the good gifts You want to give. Keep me so surrendered to You that the Holy Spirit can fill me and express Your life through me. Use me to help others give their lives to Jesus and receive the good gift of the Holy Spirit. 13

Jesus was constantly overcoming demonic powers and setting people free. He is infinitely more powerful than the devil and all the devil's forces. We are to occupy and maintain the victory He won until He returns.

All-powerful Lord Jesus Christ, work through me to attack and overpower the demons in people's lives, and set free those they are holding captive. On the other hand, I ask You to be the strong man in my house so we will never be overcome by the enemy and taken captive. 22

There is no neutral place on this earth. We are either working with Jesus to gather or against Him to scatter.

Father, make sure I am always working with You to gather people into the kingdom of Your dear Son. 23

Jesus pointed out that those who hear and obey His word are the blessed ones of the earth. If you truly want your family to be blessed, help them hear and obey God's word.

Father, so work in me that I hear Your word and obey it. Use me to help my family and others do the same. 28

Jesus talked about not hiding our light, but letting it shine. He warned us to be careful what we see so that we aren't a mixture of light and darkness.

Lord Jesus, cause me to carefully guard what I put into my mind. Make me a pure light that shows others the way to You. 33-36

Luke 12

We deceive others and sometimes deceive ourselves, but we never fool God. He sees right through to our motives.

God of deliverances, uncover hidden things in my life and deliver me from their destructive influence. 2

Jesus had many enemies but He said not to worry about them but instead to focus on fearing and obeying God.

God my strength, keep me from being afraid of men. Make sure I always have a deep and abiding respect and reverence for You. Use me to help lost people have a healthy respect for Your wrath that motivates them into action. 4-5

We need to understand that our Father is more tender and loving than the best earthly dad example we ever saw. He really is interested in us, is for us and loves it when we express love to Him.

Abba (Daddy), cause us to realize how much You love us. Keep us from being afraid of things in the world. 7

God has placed in every Christian the desire and power to confess that they belong to the Lord Jesus Christ. We don't want the devil to ever trick, embarrass or intimidate us into denying Jesus.

Lord Jesus Christ, so work in me that I never deny You before men and never deny that I belong to You. 8-9

I believe the Holy Spirit at work in a believer will keep him from ever blaspheming the Holy Spirit.

Father, thank You for so working in me that I never speak against Jesus or blaspheme against the Holy Spirit. 10

Jesus said that in the crisis hour, He would tell us what to say. We should start the day by committing it to the Lord and asking Him to be in control of all we do and say.

Father, whenever I have to give a defense of my faith, make sure I hear and say what the Holy Spirit gives me to say. 11-12

A man asks Jesus to intervene in a squabble over an inheritance. Jesus refuses and warns the man to beware of covetousness or greed. He said life doesn't consist in an abundance of things.

Father, keep me on guard against every form of greed. Don't let me ever think my fulfillment and joy depends on my possessions. 15

The rich man had stored up all his treasures and planned to live a life of ease. However, he died that night and found out he was bankrupt before God. You and I know men who are working to achieve a life of ease. God's men lay up treasures in heaven and let Him provide what they need on earth.

Master in heaven, make sure I am rich toward You. Keep me from focusing on laying up treasure on earth. Lead me in storing up eternal treasures.16-21

Jesus said that the Father who dressed the lilies and feeds the birds would take good care of us.

Father, correct me quickly when I start worrying about the necessities of life. Instead, make sure I seek first Your kingdom so You can take care of all the other things related to my life. 21-31

Jesus said our treasure and our hearts are tied to each other. We need to be sure that our true treasure is Jesus and those people He places in our lives.

Father, so work in my heart that I treasure my relationship with You and Your Son, Jesus Christ. Teach me how to use the possessions You have entrusted to me for Your kingdom work. 32-34

We are to continue our work in the kingdom until the Lord returns or until our work is complete and He calls us to be with Him. There are no survivors in the war we are fighting so focus on getting your assignments done before your time is up.

Father, keep me alert and active in Your service all the days of my life. 35-40

As we look at all the Christian books, tapes, music, radio, TV and churches available to us, it is easy to see we have been given much. As a result, much will be required of us.

Father, You have invested the time of so many believers in me through their sermons, prayers, books and tapes. So work in me that I am faithful to do the "much" that You require. Cause me to be satisfied only when I am doing what You want. 48

A love for Jesus inevitably separates us from those who have no use for Him. They will separate themselves from us as we actively pursue a love relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

Father, make sure I am always on the side of those who love and obey You. Don't let me compromise my faith to try to hold on to those who are rejecting You and rejecting me. 51-53

Luke 13

God's word to the lost is always - repent.

Father, work through me to help lost people repent and find eternal life through Jesus Christ, Your Son. 3-5

A spirit of infirmity had caused this woman to be bent over for eighteen years. Jesus said she was loosed from her infirmity and laid His hands on her and she was made straight. We need discernment so we will recognize when there is a spiritual cause behind a sickness.

Jehovah Rophe, our Healer, cause me to recognize when sickness is caused by an evil spirit. Use me to set people free from such infirmities. 11-12

The only ones who will get to God's heaven are those who come through the narrow gate by repenting of sins and asking Jesus to save them.

Thank You, Father, for guiding me through the narrow gate into Your kingdom. Use me to help others find You, the narrow door. Use me to help people know the difference between a real salvation experience and an emotional experience, or church membership or simply repeating a prayer. 24

Jesus pointed out that people from all over the world would be part of His kingdom.

Blessed Savior, use me to help people come from north, south, east and west into Your kingdom. Make me realize that Your kingdom is much bigger than my church or my denomination or even my nation. 29

The time is approaching when the Jews will recognize Jesus as the Messiah.

Father, open the eyes of the Jews to recognize and turn to Jesus and say, "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord." 34-35

Luke 14

This same instruction about not taking the highest or best place also applies to the place in line at a potluck, parking places and a myriad of everyday activities where Christians compete for best just like the world does. Remember: greedy, self-serving lost people instantly recognize and condemn greedy and self-serving actions in Christians. Don't let a moment of selfishness limit your witness.

Father, teach me to not take the best place, but to allow You to move me up. Make sure I humble myself so You can exalt me at the proper time. So work in me that my actions always represent You well. 7-11

Have you ever taken deliberate steps to do things for those who could not repay you or to invite to your dinners and cookouts those who could never invite you in return?

Father, direct me in doing things for those who are unable to repay. 12-14

Those invited to the feast wouldn't come. The king sent the servant to the poor, crippled, lame and they were willing to come. Those who know they are needy are usually the quickest to respond to the gospel.

Father, work through me to enable the poor and crippled, and the blind and lame to attend the marriage supper in heaven. 21

Jesus expects our love for Him to be so great that all other loves appear like hatred in comparison. Whenever we are given an impossible command like this, it means God is going to take over and do in us what we can't do on our own.

Father, develop in me a love for Jesus that is far greater than my love for myself or for anyone else. Take out of my life everything that keeps me from really loving Jesus. Bring into my life that which will deepen my love for Jesus. 26

The cross was a place of death. To bear our cross is to accept our place of death to our dreams, goals and ambitions. When we do so, Jesus can make us alive to His kingdom work.

Father, do what You need to do in me so that I take up my cross and follow Jesus every day of my life. 27

These verses tell us to count the cost. Do you know that to follow Jesus costs us everything we have? It all belongs to Him and we belong to Him and He can and will use us and our stuff any way He chooses.

Make me understand that all I am and have belongs to You. Use me to tell potential believers and new believers that following You involves yielding to You the right to control our lives and possessions. 28-33

We are to be salt and light. Often we hide our light and we allow ourselves to become tasteless salt.

Father, keep me effective in Your kingdom work. Don't let me ever become useless or tasteless salt. 34-35

Luke 15

We should never lose sight of the importance of leading someone to Jesus. In heaven, it brings great joy and rejoicing.

Lord, keep me from getting so wrapped up in church stuff that I forget to go after lost sheep. Open my eyes to the joy in heaven when a sinner repents. 1-7

Just as the woman searched for the lost coin and carefully guarded the silver entrusted to her, we should watch over those people God places in our care.

When someone who is entrusted to my care gets into sin, work through me to help them repent and return to You. Show me those I am to disciple. 8-10

No matter how far we have strayed or what we have done, the solution is to repent and return to our heavenly Father. God probably has a "prodigal" around you that you can pray for, love and help to return to the Father.

In any way I have gone away from You, Father, cause me to come to my senses like the prodigal and return to You. Use me to help others return also. 17-18

We are often tempted to get jealous when God blesses someone else. That is what the elder brother did when the prodigal returned home.

Don't let me have an "elder brother attitude" and get jealous because You are good to a prodigal that I think doesn't deserve Your goodness. Don't let me ever forget that I did not deserve all You have forgiven me of and given to me. 25-28

The elder brother pointed to all his good works and told how faithfully he had served. His self-righteous attitude kept him from really loving his father and his brother.

Keep me from becoming self-righteous because I serve You. Don't let me forget that I deserve nothing good and that I am Yours because of Your mercy and grace. 29-30

Luke 16

An unchanging principle of the kingdom is that if you are faithful in little, you will be trusted with more and vice-versa.

Lord, my heart's desire is to be faithful in what You give me to do. Please work in me so I am

truly faithful in doing tasks and wisely using resources You have entrusted to me. 10-11

No matter how hard we try, we cannot serve the world and Jesus at the same time. What is His chief competition in your life?

Father, keep me from trying to serve You without turning loose of the world. Cause me to love and serve You alone. 13

The Pharisees scoffed when Jesus said one couldn't serve God and money. They loved money.

Father, don't let me be a lover of money. Keep me from highly esteeming things that You detest. 14-15

This verse should convince us that God does not want divorce. We should do all we can to help marriages stay together. At the same time we do not judge or condemn those who have gone through the tragedy of divorce.

Father, use me to help salvage marriages. Strengthen me in my conviction that divorce is not an option. 18

Hell and eternal torment are as real as Jesus and eternal life in heaven. To end up in hell, a person doesn't have to do anything he is not already doing. To end up in heaven, he has to repent of sin and give himself to Jesus and ask Him to take over as boss of his life.

Father, use me to help people come into a personal relationship with Your Son, Jesus Christ, before they die and it is too late. 23-31

Luke 17

We never want to do anything that keeps others from coming to know Jesus personally.

Keep me from ever being a stumbling block that keeps people from coming to You. 1-2

When someone sins against us, we are to tell them and if they repent we assure them they are forgiven.

Teach me how to rebuke a brother who sins against me. Cause me to be quick to forgive those who ask for forgiveness. 3-4

The disciples asked Jesus to increase their faith. He basically told them to use the faith they already had.

Father, cause me to use the faith You have given me. 5-6

Most of us learned as kids to do the minimum we could get away with doing. As a supervisor, I tried to take care of those who consistently did more than expected. In the kingdom we are "unprofitable servants" if we only do the minimum that we have to do.

Heavenly Father, show me where I am doing only the minimum as a husband, dad or church member. Father, so work in me that I consistently do more than the minimum expected by You. 7-10

Of the ten lepers, only the Samaritan came back to say thanks. How often we take God for granted and forget to thank Him. Let's remember to thank and praise our wives regularly also.

Father, so work in my spirit that I consistently give You glory and thanks for all You do for me. Release in me expressions of thanks to those around me, especially my wife. 15-18

If we hang on to our life and use our time and money for ourselves, we lose out in eternity. If we spend our life here for Jesus, we have everything forever.

Keep me from trying to hold on to my self-life. Make sure I invest my life in Your kingdom and am always ready for Jesus' return. 33-35

Luke 18

Jesus told the parable of the widow and the unjust judge so we would pray and not give up. Although God is not like the unjust judge, there will be times when we have to keep praying and hanging on until the answer comes.

Father, make sure I keep on praying and never give up until You answer. Teach me to be persistent in prayer. 1-5

The Father is looking for those who will cry out to Him day and night in faith until Jesus returns.

Use me to help Your people cry out in prayer to You day and night until Your purposes are accomplished. So work in me that I walk in faith as long as I live. 7-8

Jesus told the parable about the Pharisee and the tax collector who were praying in order to point out how God responds to the humble and not the self-righteous. Beware, self-righteousness is sneaky. It can be all over us before we know it. The Holy Spirit helps us recognize it, confess it and repent so the Lord can cleanse us.

Keep me from ever trusting in my own righteousness or viewing others with contempt. Father, point out self-righteousness in my life through Your Spirit in me or in others. Make sure I deal with it quickly. 9

Jesus always responds to simple child-like faith.

Lord, work through me to help people enter Your kingdom with simple child-like faith. Don't let me ever hinder a child or anyone else from coming to You. 16-17

The rich young ruler wanted to know how he could earn eternal life. Jesus basically told him he must be perfect and give his life and possessions totally to God. In other words, we are unable to earn or deserve heaven. However, we can have it as a free gift.

Use me to help people know there is nothing they can do to earn eternal life. Help me tell them You did everything necessary for them to receive eternal life as a free gift. 18

Virtually everything we are called on to do in the kingdom is impossible for us to do in our own strength.

Father, cause me to believe You for the humanly impossible things You want to do through me. 27

Jesus told the disciples that no matter how much they had given up to follow Him, they would receive "much more" in this life and everlasting life in heaven.

Father, keep me from focusing on what I have given up to serve Jesus. Keep me focused on what Jesus has done for me and given to me and the reward waiting for me in heaven. 29-30

Even though Jesus knew exactly what the blind man needed, he did nothing until the man stated exactly what he wanted. This example points out the importance of being specific in our requests to Jesus.

Father, so work on my prayers that I tell You exactly what I want. Of course, You always have my permission to answer bigger, better or to change my mind when I ask for the wrong thing. Prompt me to watch for and expect answers. 41-43

Luke 19

When Jesus noticed that Zacchaeus had gone to all the trouble of climbing up in a tree in order to see Him clearly, He knew God was really at work in Zacchaeus' life. He therefore, interrupted His journey to join the Father in what He was doing in Zacchaeus.

Father, cause me to recognize when You are at work in the lives of those around me and to cooperate with You as You minister to them. 2-9

We know Jesus came to "destroy the works of the devil" (I John 3:8), "give abundant life" (John 10:10), and to "seek and save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10). Shouldn't we be doing the same things?

Lord Jesus, work through me to destroy the works of the devil and to seek and save those who are lost. Use me to help others experience the abundant life You have for them. 10

The story of the talents illustrates clearly that Jesus is very serious in holding us responsible for the abilities, time and resources He has placed in our hands.

Father, make me aware of what You have entrusted to me and make sure I use it very wisely for kingdom purposes. Don't let me be a wicked servant who hides and wastes what You have given. Make me realize that Your desire and plan is for me to succeed in what You lead me to do. 12-26

In the parable, the king destroys those who do not come under his rule. All those who continue in rebellion against God will be destroyed forever in hell along with the devil.

Don't let my family or me or anyone I can influence be among those who do not want You to reign over them, Jesus. You are my Lord. 27

Notice that when Jesus sent them after the colt, He told them exactly where to go and what to say when questioned about taking the colt. He is still able and willing to give us specific, detailed directions that will enable us to successfully carry out His tasks.

Lord Jesus, You live in me. Tell me day after day what You want me to do, and how You want me to do it. Make sure I hear and obey Your clear, specific instructions. 29-35

Jesus was very upset that the people were kept from worshipping and praying to God by all the worldly activities going on in the temple. Our heart and body are His temple, are they full of worldly stuff? How about your church? Is it a place to meet God and hear from God or is it essentially just like the world?

Father, Jesus was very jealous that nothing prevent people from coming to You. So work in me, that nothing in my life hinders others from relating to You. Also work in the church services I attend to remove anything that keeps people from worshipping You and hearing from You. 45-46

When Jesus taught in the temple, the people were very attentive to His words. Isn't that also how you want to respond to His words?

Heavenly Father, so work in me that I listen carefully to everything Jesus is saying to me and obey Him. 48

Luke 20

Jesus instructed us to pay our taxes and do our duty to our country. Even more we are to serve our God and Father. If there is ever a time when we are forced to choose between obeying God and obeying our nation's leaders, we must obey God. Make sure your disobedience is based on a deep-seated conviction and not because of temporary inconvenience or irritation.

Father, make sure I fulfill my responsibilities to my country. Even more, make sure I fulfill my responsibilities to You and Your kingdom. 21-25

Jesus warned them about religious pretenders so they could avoid their deceptions and also so they would not become like them.

Father, make sure I recognize and avoid those who are pretending to be religious in order to obtain recognition and monetary gain. Don't let me ever do that. 46-47

Luke 21

Jesus said the poor widow, who gave less than a penny, actually gave more in God's eyes than the two rich men who gave a little of their wealth. She gave all she had.

Father, work in my heart so that all I am and all I have is available to You for Your kingdom work. 1-4

Jesus said that in the end times many deceivers would come but He admonished us not to follow them. He also said we were not to be afraid of wars and commotions. If we are brought before the authorities for our faith, we are to trust Him to give us words to speak and wisdom as we need

Father of my Lord Jesus Christ, don't let me follow any false Christ's, impostors or deceivers. Give me such peace that I am not afraid of end-time events. Whenever I have to speak about my faith in Jesus, give me Your wisdom and words so Your message comes clearly through my lips. As end-time events begin to take place, cause me to lift up my head with anticipation as my redemption draws near. 8-28

Jesus said that heaven and earth would pass away, but His word would not pass away. What word has He given you about yourself, your family or friends? Keep believing and watching for Him to perform His word.

Lord Jesus, keep me believing what You have said to me and keep me watching expectantly for its fulfillment. 32

Jesus warned us about being filled with the cares of this life. We are to hold tightly to Jesus and loosely to the "stuff" of the world. He also instructed us to watch and pray.

Heavenly Father, cleanse me wherever I have become filled with the cares of this world. Cause me to focus on Jesus and what He is doing around me. Keep me from being tied down with "stuff." Teach me to watch with wisdom and anticipation. Please work powerfully in me so I really pray effectively for the rest of my life. 34-36

Luke 22

Again in these verses, Jesus sends them on a specific task with specific instructions. Do you believe He can speak to you in your spirit and give you a task to do and the instructions necessary to carry it out? Actually, we have it even better than the disciples. They had to leave Jesus, go to the task, and come back to Him. He is always in us to give moment-by-moment instructions as we serve Him.

Lord Jesus, clean out everything that keeps me from hearing and obeying You. Make sure I stay in constant communication with You in prayer. 7-13

The disciples were arguing about who was the greatest. They probably wanted to establish a pecking order so they could know whom they could boss around. Jesus caught them in their arguments and told them to focus on being the greatest servant if they wanted to be important in His kingdom.

Lord, place a servant spirit in me and work in me to serve others the way You want. 24-27

Jesus initially sent them out with nothing on their ministry trips. Now in this verse He tells them they are to use any provision and measures of protection they have in order to carry out the assignments given to them.

Lord, make sure I use everything available to me to fulfill my task of making disciples for Your kingdom. 36

In the garden, Jesus instructed them to pray that they not enter into temptation. In the model prayer in Luke 11 and Matthew 6, they were instructed to pray that they would not be lead into temptation, but be delivered from the evil one. How about us? Do we go through temptations that could have been avoided if we had prayed?

Father, I really do want You to keep me from every temptation that is not absolutely essential for my spiritual growth. Make sure I respond to temptation by turning to You, resisting the devil, and finding Your way of escape. 40,46

Luke 24

As Jesus walked with the two disciples to Emmaus, He explained from Moses and the prophets what the scripture said about Him. Their hearts burned as Truth pointed out to them the truth about Himself. The Holy Spirit of Truth lives in us to make God's word come alive to us.

Heavenly Father, open my eyes fully to the truth about Yourself and Your Son, Jesus Christ. Cause me to be stirred in my spirit as Your word comes alive to me. Speak through me words about Jesus that "burn" in the hearts of those who hear. 27,32

Later, Jesus appeared to the disciples in the upper room. He opened their understanding so they could see why He had to die and be buried and rise again. He also instructed that the message of repentance and remission of sins be preached all over the earth.

Heavenly Father, open my understanding so I know Your word and can explain the death and resurrection of Jesus clearly to those to whom You send me. Use me in calling people to repent and believe in Jesus so their sins can be forgiven and they can become Your sons. 45-47

The disciples were instructed to remain in Jerusalem until they were "filled with power from on high." Until we are filled and empowered with God's Holy Spirit, we are virtually useless in kingdom work. This filling and empowering comes as we surrender ourselves to Jesus and ask Him to fill us.

Jesus, all I am and all I have, I give to You. Fill me to overflowing with Your Holy Spirit. Cause Your power and Your anointing to be on my life as I live for You. Don't let me ever be content with anything less than a Spirit-filled life. 49

Jesus blessed them before He ascended to heaven. Soon, they became a source of blessing to all those around them. They were filled with great joy and were continually praising and blessing God.

Lord Jesus, bless me and make me a blessing to everyone to whom You send me. Fill me with great joy. So work in me that I am continually praising and blessing God. Make my life really count in Your kingdom. 50-53 AMEN!

