

Wonderful Praying

With Prayers from Paul's Letters



Tom Bishop

WONDERFUL PRAYING

PRAYERS FOR PERSONAL SPIRITUAL GROWTH FROM PAUL'S LETTERS

The primary purpose of these prayers is personal spiritual growth. This is not a book to be read; these are prayers to be prayed. Scripture has been rewritten into prayers that ask the Lord to do in us the things He wants and to keep us from things He doesn't want. Comments are included before each prayer to help explain the verse and give you an idea of how I came up with the prayer. On KFLQ Family Life Radio in Albuquerque we read a verse, made comments and then expressed it as a prayer each weekday. The new format of this book is similar to the radio format. The comments are in normal print, the prayers are in bold print.

One of the most powerful ways to pray is to pray God's word back to Him. He promises in Jeremiah 1:12 to hasten to perform His word. As we pray His word, we are praying for things He wants and are releasing His power to change us and others.

By the time you have prayed through the prayers from Paul's letters, you will have probably covered most of the problems you will ever face. Pray the verse for yourself and respond to anything the Lord says to you as you pray. Then pray the verse for your spouse, your children and for others that are around your life. Mark those verses that are most meaningful and come back to them often.

Probably the best way to use these prayers is to read the verse in your Bible, then read the comments, and then use the prayer I have written to pray the verse to God. The written prayers form a framework on which you build the specifics related to your life or the life of those you are praying for. Pray through the verses a few at a time and use a paper clip to mark your spot. Start there the next time you pray. Be persistent and work your way through the book. Make notes and mark the best ones to use over and over. Remember: Just reading through the prayers may be interesting but it is not prayer and does not release the Lord's power into your life.

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ROMANS

Chapter 1

Paul's life was spent serving the Lord Jesus Christ. However, it is easy for us to get caught up in serving ourselves, our jobs or something other than Jesus. As we serve Him, it will involve ministry to others as He directs.

Lord Jesus Christ, use me to serve You by sharing the gospel of Your Son. Show me those to whom I am to minister. 9-10

Each of us has a gift given by the Holy Spirit. We use this gift to minister to the body. We are also to help the body understand the gift and function in that gift. For example, if our gift is serving, we would serve others and help them learn how to serve others themselves. We also may have great faith in some area and can help encourage and strengthening others to have faith for the same thing.

Use me to impart spiritual gifts to the body that they may be established. Cause the body and me to be comforted by each other's faith. 11-12

The devil has been extremely successful in making Christians ashamed to tell others about their faith in Christ. He points out our failures or threatens us with rejection if we witness to others. The truth is that before we were Christians we were total failures but now God works everything to good for us. Also, we will be rejected by those who reject Jesus but knowing God has forever accepted us gives us the ability to handle temporary rejection by others.

Make me ready and able to preach the gospel. Cause me to be totally unashamed of the gospel and to know it is the power of God for salvation to every one who believes. 15-16

Chapter 2

We become like those we judge because we are always looking at them to ensure we are better than they. Just as a driver will instinctively turn toward an object along the side of the road if he stares at the object, our character will become like those we focus on and judge. The only safe focus is "looking unto Jesus."

Keep me from judging others. Forgive me and release me from the consequences of my judgments in the past. 1

We deserve nothing but eternal punishment because of our sin. God in His goodness offered eternal life and a relationship with Him. When we see Him being good to others who are lost, we should recognize and help them recognize that God's goodness is leading them to the place of repenting and trusting in Jesus.

Work in me so I fully receive Your goodness, tolerance and mercy. Cause the good things You do for me to lead me to repentance. Work through me to lead many others to repentance. Cause me to keep on doing good. 4,7

One of our strong desires should be that we never do anything that would keep anyone from coming into a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

Keep Your name from being blasphemed by other people because of me. 24

God has given us a new heart and because we have trusted Him in faith, He has put His Spirit in us. Our focus is to please and obey God and not worry about the praise of men. No one is even close to being good enough to get into God's heaven. When we give our lives to Jesus, His goodness and righteousness is given to us qualifying us for heaven.

Thank You for a new heart indwelt by Your Spirit. Keep me seeking only Your praise and not men's applause. 29

Chapter 3

We can help lost people see that they can never be righteous or acceptable to God apart from Jesus.

Make the world see that absolutely no one is righteous apart from Jesus. 11a

When lost people start talking to you about spiritual/religious things, it is because the Father is drawing them to Jesus. Be ready to cooperate with the Father and say or do what He wants.

Father, no one even seeks after You unless You draw them. Use Jesus in me to cause men to seek and find a relationship with You. 11b

We can't stop talking about sin and judgment just because no one wants to listen. We have to find ways to communicate this truth in love.

Use me to help lost people know they are guilty and face Your wrath. 19

Even though Jesus has made us righteous, we often approach God as if He is mad at us and doesn't like us.

Cause me to believe that You have made me righteous in Your eyes through my faith in Jesus. Ensure I cooperate as You do Your righteous works through me. 22

Until someone knows they have sinned and come short, they are not ready to turn from sin and be born again.

Use me to tell the lost world again and again that they have sinned and will not get to go to heaven unless they repent and believe in Jesus. 23

We were freely and permanently given right standing before God when we put our trust in Jesus as Savior and Lord.

Teach me more fully what it means to be justified by grace. 24

Chapter 4

Faith sees what God is doing and believes even before it comes to pass. Revival and spiritual awakening are coming, how are you to fit into God's plan for revival?

Lord, work through me to bring revival to dead churches and to talk about those things You are about to do. 17

Unbelief limits what God will do in us and through us. Are you willing to let Him search out and eliminate areas of unbelief in your life? We need to come to the place where we believe He is both able and willing.

Take unbelief out of my heart and cause me to grow strong in faith giving glory to You. Cause me to be fully persuaded that what You have promised, You are able and willing to perform. 20-21

Chapter 5

Tests and trials are so important because they develop patience which brings experience which brings hope which allows the love of God to be poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit.

Use the tribulations I have experienced to build in me patience, experience, and hope that does not disappoint. Pour out Your love in my heart through the Holy Spirit. 3-5

Jesus has done everything and given everything necessary for us to have an abundant and victorious life. Our part is to believe and receive what is already ours.

Lord, cause me and anyone I can influence to fully receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness that You have given. Cause me to reign in life through You, Jesus. I pray that through my obedience, many will come to know You and allow You to make them righteous. 17-19

♥ *Some years back, my (Tom) life was full of sin and failure. I was a Christian and at church appeared to be a godly young man. During the*

week it was as if I was a different person. One Sunday night the youth conducted the service at University Baptist in Fort Worth. They had just returned from camp and God was working powerfully among them. They concluded the service and the invitation went on for many minutes as kids went to parents to ask their forgiveness. During the invitation, I could feel the Holy Spirit tugging at my heart prompting me to acknowledge my sin and respond during the invitation. My heart was too proud to walk forward because it was a youth service and besides, I didn't want any of my friends to think there was anything wrong with me. Because of the battle raging inside, I prayed "Lord, can You do anything about my pride?"

As I opened my eyes from praying, two young women had walked up to the end of the row where I was standing. They said, "We don't know why we are here but the Lord said to come over to you." They had been sitting on the opposite side of the church and had walked outside the sanctuary, across the back of the church and came back inside to get to me. I knew why they were there. The Lord was saying through their presence that He loved me and cared enough about me to send them. That broke the pride and started the process of God getting control of my life and making it useful to Him. He also cares tremendously about you. Is there anything you need to let Him do in your life? ♥

Chapter 6

It is very dangerous to sin deliberately with the thought that we can simply confess it later. All sin has consequences that will impact our lives or the lives of those around us.

Lord, never let me dabble in sin just because I know You are willing to forgive. Make me know I am dead to sin and don't have to live in it. Cause me to fully walk in the newness of life that is mine. 1-2,4

The moment we became a Christian our old sin nature died and we were given a new nature. Because most of us don't believe this, the devil has been able to deceive us into believing both natures are alive and are struggling with each other. What is alive is old fleshly habit patterns that were built into us before and sometimes even after we became Christians. The Holy Spirit working through our new nature/new heart is putting to death those fleshly lusts. **Cause me to fully know that my old man (old nature, old self) is dead, my tendency toward sin is gone and I don't have to be a slave to sin. Make me know I am freed from sin. 6-7**

Eternal life began for us the moment we believed in Jesus and gave our lives to Him. Now we enjoy Him and fellowship with Him and work with Him as we await the moment when we see Him face-to-face in heaven.

Lord, see to it that I really live with You, enjoying the eternal life I already have. Keep me from fearing physical death. 8-9

The only choice of our old nature was to sin. Now our old nature is dead and our new nature chooses righteousness, but sometimes gets tricked into sin by the devil. The Holy Spirit in our new nature is always prompting us to do the right thing. When we choose to do right and choose against sin, the Holy Spirit provides the power to be victorious over the sin.

Cause me to know I am dead to sin and alive to God in You, Jesus. So work in me that I am consistently choosing against sin. 11

These verses talk about choices. We choose against fleshly desires and sinful things our bodies want to do. We are to give ourselves (mind, will, emotions) to God and then present our bodies to Him for righteous use.

So work in me that I do not let sin reign in my body nor obey its lusts. Keep me from doing unrighteous things with my body. Cause me to present myself to You as one alive from the dead and to present all parts of my body to You as instruments of righteousness. 12-13

Read this verse carefully and never again tell yourself there are areas of sin that you will never be able to conquer. The truth is that sin cannot control you unless you give in and let it. Surrender your life afresh to God and ask Him to so work in you through His grace so you are victorious over every area of sin.

Make me know that it's not my ability, but it is Your mighty power in me that will keep sin from controlling me. 14

You were booby trapped before you became a Christian and the devil know your weak areas. God wants to demonstrate His power by causing you to live victoriously in every area of your life.

Lord, put to death those old habits and thought patterns that were built into my mind back when my old nature was alive. Cause me to know that I am now under Your righteous control and free to obey You in every way. Set me apart for Your service. 16-22

Chapter 7

When you became a Christian, you died to the law and became alive to grace. The law was perfectly fulfilled for you by the Lord Jesus Christ.

Lord, make me know I am dead to the law and joined to You so I can bring forth fruit for God. 4

We are often tempted to get back into law. We believe we gain God's love and favor by the things we do. God's plan is that we serve Him out of love and gratitude because we realize He first loved us and that He sent Jesus to die for us.

Now that I am released from bondage to the law, cause me to serve You in newness of the Spirit and not in oldness of the letter. 6

These verses are not an excuse for sinning. Paul simply points out that a carnal Christian walking in their own strength will not have victory over sin. However, we are not to walk in the flesh but in the Spirit and we are to walk in victory over sin. If verse 18 and 19 describe your life, you need to talk to the Lord about surrendering yourself completely to Him and ask Him to fill you with His Spirit. You are being robbed of the victorious, abundant life He bought for you. I'm not talking about occasional mistakes, but about areas in your life where you consistently sin.

Cause me to know and believe that the bad habits left behind in my flesh after the old nature died are being conquered by Your Spirit at work in my new nature. Lord, I do give myself to you right now. Please fill me and keep me filled with the Holy Spirit. So work in me that I live in victory over sin. 18-25

Chapter 8

If those last few verses in Chapter 7 are an accurate description of your life - then welcome to the freedom and victory of Chapter 8. The demands of the law have been met and your condemnation has been placed upon Jesus. Now you are accepted and loved. You have been given the grace to obey and love God. Receive it and walk powerfully in Him from now on.

Work in me so I know with all my heart that I have been forever set free from the law of sin and death. 2

If you are a believer, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit (vs 9). Believe it and walk in the Spirit. Choose to set your mind on the things of God. Read His word, spend time in prayer, and seek fellowship with godly people.

Your Word says we do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. You say our minds are set on the things of the Spirit and we have life and peace. Cause me to know that, because Your Spirit is in me, I am not in the flesh but in the Spirit. 4-6,9

Right now the Holy Spirit is giving life and health to your body.

Cause Your Spirit, Who indwells me, to give divine health and energy to my mortal body. Holy Spirit, work in me to end all fleshly activity. 11,13

We can rest securely in our position as God's child. We know Him as "Daddy". We also need to realize that tough times down here are nothing compared to the blessing and joy we will know forever in heaven with Him.

Father, make me know all it means to be Your child, Your heir and a joint-heir with Christ. Make me know that the present sufferings are nothing compared to the glory that is to be revealed to me. 16-18

Real prayers are started by the Spirit within us. He knows what we should be praying for and gives us a burden for it. Our job is to cooperate and pray when we are prompted.

Holy Spirit, continue to intercede for and in me according to the will of God with groanings which I can't even speak. 26-27

Everything that comes your way is working toward the good purpose of making you more and more like Jesus Christ.

Lord, continue to cause all things to work together for good for me since I love You and have been called according to Your purpose. Cause me to be conformed to Your image. 28-29

I don't know about you, but I want the "all things" that were given to me through Jesus.

Father, cause me to fully appropriate all the things You freely gave at the same time You gave me Your Son. 32

This verse describes who we are to be. Don't settle for anything less.

Make me more than a conqueror as You live Your powerful life through me. 37

Paul knew it and so can you. Nothing or no one (including you) can keep a believer from going to heaven and enjoying God's love forever. The key is not your ability to hang on, but God's ability to hang on to you. Those who bring up all the "What if I ...", greatly underestimate the change God makes in a person when we become a Christian and receive a new nature and a new heart.

Cause me to know that because You are in me and have paid for everything that would ever keep me out of heaven - I will never, never, never be separated from You through all eternity for any reason whatsoever. 38-39

Chapter 9

We can easily get so involved with friends and activities that we forget the lost world around us. Many church members go through the week and never have more than a causal discussion with lost people. On our own, we have little love and compassion for the lost. If we will allow it, God will fill us with His love and compassion just as He did Paul.

Father, form in me Your deep concern and compassion for the lost. 2-3.

God, our designer, knows exactly what He wants us to be. The world is forever trying to mold us into its version of a successful person. Our job is to cooperate with God as He builds character and makes us faithful stewards in His kingdom.

Make sure I cooperate as You make me into the person You want. 20-21

We have truly become children of the living God. As we live as His children, others will want to become His children also.

Use me to live and share Your gospel in ways that help people become Your children. 26

The devil and the world is constantly trying to make us ashamed of the most wonderful and important thing in our life - our faith in Jesus Christ. Really, the devil and the rebellious world are the ones who should be ashamed that they are rejecting our wonderful, loving Father.

Keep me from ever being put to shame as I believe in You. Make me see that it is really the lost who should be ashamed. 33

Chapter 10

We need a fresh understanding of what it means to be separated from God and under His eternal punishment in Hell. This will stir us to fervent prayers for lost people to be drawn to Jesus.

Make my strongest desires and deepest prayers be for the salvation of others. 1

Jesus totally and completely fulfilled the law for us. Now we are free to serve Him under grace.

Lord Jesus Christ, cause me to know that You have met the requirements of the law for righteousness for me. 4

Salvation comes as we believe in or trust on Jesus alone for salvation and invite Him to take over as Lord/Boss in our lives. We then tell others what we have done so believers can help disciple us and so we can help lost people trust Him as their Savior and Lord.

Use me to help bring people to the place where they confess that Jesus is Lord and believe in their heart that God raised Jesus from the dead and are saved. 9-10

Eternal riches plus an abundant life on earth are ours when we become Christians.

Cause me to receive all the riches You have for me, Jesus. 12

It is the job of every believer to tell those God brings across our path about our new life in Christ. We are all ministers who can tell lost people how to be reconciled to God.

Lord, send me to those You have ready to hear the gospel of peace. 14-15

This verse is talking about hearing specific, personal words from God as the Holy Spirit uses the Bible to tell us what God is about to do in or around us.

Cause me to hear specific, personal words from You that greatly build my faith and remove unbelief. 17

Chapter 11

God always has His remnant. Today while much of the church is asleep or conducting "business as usual", God is raising up men and women who will pray, believe and obey as He revives the church and brings spiritual awakening to our land.

Lord Jesus, raise up the remnant again into a glorious church with You fully at its head and with the church being fully what You intended the church to be. 5

One of the tasks of the church is to so express God's love and character that the Jews are drawn back into a relationship with Him.

Use the things You are doing in us Gentiles to open the minds and hearts of the Jews so they come to You. Keep me from being arrogant toward the Jews but instead to look forward to the day when they can be grafted back in to You. 11,14,17-24

There is a day coming when the spiritual blinders will be removed from the Jews and the whole nation will recognize that Jesus is the Messiah and virtually all of them will come into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.

Lord, work through me to hasten the day of the fullness of the Gentiles and the day when all Israel is saved. 25-26

This verse is not there to discourage us, but to remind us that we cannot know who God is or what He is doing unless the Holy Spirit shows us. However, the Holy Spirit is very willing to teach us God's ways if we are serious students who are willing to hear and obey what God tells us.

Holy Spirit, guide me to experience and understand as much as I can of God's wisdom and knowledge. Teach me things about God that I would never figure out on my own. 33

Chapter 12

If you really want to know God and see Him working through your life, giving yourself to Him completely is the first step.

Work in me as I present my body to You as a living sacrifice that is holy and acceptable. 1

After we surrender ourselves to God, then He goes to work in us to make us like He is by renewing our minds so we think like He does.

Father, in Jesus' name, keep me from being conformed to this world, but transform me by renewing my mind so that I can prove Your good, acceptable and perfect will. 2

This verse doesn't mean we have to think of ourselves as worms, but that we need God's opinion of our spiritual maturity and power.

Keep me from thinking more highly of myself than I ought to think. Make sure I understand what You have given me faith to believe for so I can cooperate as You accomplish it through me. 3

The Holy Spirit is the gift and He can do anything God can do., However, He usually develops unique abilities in us that fit and compliment the body of Christians in which He has placed us.

Cause me to exercise my gift according to the grace You have given to me. 6

Whatever our gift, we are to use it as much as possible to build up the body.

Lord, work in the body to cause the prophets to prophesy according to the proportion of their faith. Cause those motivated to minister to do so. Prompt the teachers to teach, the exhorters to exhort and the givers to give without drawing attention to themselves. Make sure those in charge are diligent and see to it that those who show mercy to do so with cheerfulness. 6-8

By praying this, you are making a choice in your will to allow God to do it in you.

Cause me to have genuine love. Keep me hating evil and holding on to good. Keep me deeply loving other believers and prompt me to give them preferential treatment. Cause me to work hard and keep me fervent in spirit serving You. So work in me that I am always excited about what You are doing in and through me. 9-11

By the grace God gives, we have the ability to respond as these verses direct.

Keep me patient during trouble and faithful in prayer. Prompt me to give to and to be hospitable to other believers. Cause me to bless those who persecute me, to bless and not curse. Teach me to rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep. Keep me of the same mind with other believers, not haughty but associating with the lowly. Keep me from being wise in my own eyes. 12-16

These are not normal responses for people. As God renews our mind, these are things He will do in us.

Don't let me return evil for evil. Make sure my actions are above reproach. Cause me to do everything possible to live peacefully with others. 17-18

In our flesh there is the desire to "get even." God says to leave that to Him. We are to invest something of value in the lives of our enemies. Prayer is a good way to start investing in the lives of those who have hurt us.

Keep me from trying to get even but instead leave that up to You. Cause me to invest something of value in the lives of my enemies. 19-20

According to God's word, good will overcome evil. Our job is to cooperate with God and do those good things He prompts.

Keep me from being overcome by evil. Cause me to overcome evil with good. 21

Chapter 13

When we are obedient to our authorities, God is able to work on them to change their hearts.

Cause me to be subject to those over me and to see Your hand in what they do. 1

Debt is a bondage that limits our freedom and flexibility in the kingdom. If you are in debt, ask God to show you the way out.

See to it that I never owe anything to anyone except for a debt of love. 8

If Jesus permitted Paul to write that His return was soon way back then, it must really be getting close now. The strong possibility of His soon return is a great motivation for us to clean up our lives and walk in a close relationship with Him.

Cause me to recognize how soon You will be returning, turn from all evil and walk in the light. Keep me open and honest and don't let me get involved in drugs, alcohol, immorality, strife and selfishness. 12-13

Christianity involves putting off thoughts, speech, and conduct that is not like Christ and putting on the character of Jesus.

Cause me to clothe myself in Who You are, Jesus, and avoid everything that stirs up the flesh. 14

Chapter 14

Our job isn't to make everyone just like us, but it is to help them grow to be like Jesus.

Work in me to accept others where they are. Keep me from judging any of Your servants. 1, 4,10

Much of the division within the church is because we have judged other parts of the body of Christ. We need to focus on ourselves and make sure we are not causing others to stumble in any way.

Keep me from judging others and from doing anything that would tempt them to sin. 13

Do the things you are doing bring peace and build up other believers?

Cause me to be involved in things that bring harmony in the body and edify others. 19

Some things are vital kingdom truths that we must fight for. Many things are personal preferences that won't matter in eternity. Unfortunately, it's usually the personal preferences that cause the most fights.

Don't let me destroy the church by fighting over insignificant things or doing things that cause my brother to stumble. 20-21

If what we are doing doesn't involve faith, God is not involved in it and we are rebelliously doing our own thing.

Father, keep me out of things which are not of faith. 23

Chapter 15

We are not here to just "get through" life. We are to pour our lives into others and help build up those who are going to be our very dear friends for all eternity.

Cause me to be strong in You. Use me to help new or immature believers. Cause me to do good to my

neighbor and build him up. 1-2

Paul says the Old Testament was written to build our patience, comfort and hope. Don't neglect those Old Testament stories that teach us so much about how God works in the lives of ordinary people to do extraordinary things.

So work in me that I know Your word so well that I am filled with patience, comfort and hope. Open my eyes to learn from the Bible examples so I better understand what you are doing in and around me. 4

God wants to bring us into harmony so we can focus on the task of building the kingdom.

Lord, give us the same mind within the body and keep us centered on Your will. Cause us to glorify the Father in unity. 5-6

Did God wait until you had it all together before He received you ? I doubt it. We need to receive others where they are so God can use us to help them become who He wants them to be.

Cause me to receive others just as You received me. 7

These verses tell us clearly some of the things God wants to do in our lives. They sound like things I want, how about you?

Fill me with Your joy and peace. Make me abound in hope by Your power, Holy Spirit. Cause me to be full of goodness and knowledge and to be able to instruct others. 13-14

We can only effectively teach what God has worked into our lives so it is important to recognize what He has been doing in us. Next we look for opportunities to share these things with others.

Teach me how to share what You are doing in and through me. 18

God hasn't run out of the power needed to do signs and wonders. I think He is having a little trouble finding Christians who will believe His word and walk in faith so He can work in power through them.

Cause me to move in mighty signs and wonders by the power of the Spirit and to fully preach the gospel of Christ. 19

The good news of Christ is that He dramatically changes the lives of those who trust in Him. When people see Christ powerfully at work in us, they are ready to listen to the gospel.

Cause me to minister in the full power of the gospel of Christ. 29

Prayer is work or "striving" as Paul calls it. He also knew that much of his effectiveness depended on the fervent prayers of other believers. I think the lack of fervent prayer is the reason the church is making such little progress today.

Father, cause the body to strive together in prayer. Deliver us from those who do not believe; cause our labor to be helpful to each other. Cause us to come together in joy in Your will and be revived. 30-32

Chapter 16

We need to recognize and avoid those who cause divisions and who oppose God's word. Even though they come with well polished words, the Holy Spirit will help us recognize true servants and to follow them.

Cause me to recognize and avoid those who cause divisions and problems and oppose Your word. Keep me from being deceived by well polished words. 17-18

Most people should not spend much time studying what the cults and occult believe and do. Instead, we are to be filled with God's truth and then we will quickly spot that which does not conform to God's word.

Fill me with knowledge of good and keep me away from evil. 19

When we walk in peace and promote peace, we devastate the devil's works because he came to kill, steal and destroy.

Establish me in the work You have for me to do. Give me such peace and security in it that You can utterly defeat the devil when he attacks. 20

A huge number of those trapped in cults have come out of Christians churches. That's why it is so important that we are firmly established in the gospel and can help those around us to be firmly established.

Cause me to be established according to Your gospel and to understand the mystery of the gospel which is, that You are in me. Cause me to share the gospel with as many as possible leading them to the obedience of faith. Cause me to glorify You - Father, Son and Holy Spirit, forever. 25-27

1 CORINTHIANS

Chapter 1

The grace that enriched the Corinthians in everything is available to us if we believe and obey God's word.

Lord Jesus, cause me to be enriched in everything, in all I say and know and in spiritual gifts. 5-7

Disunity weakens the church and hurts all of us.

Bring harmony and end division within the body of Christ. Join me with those of the same mind and spiritual goals. 10

We live in a day where most churches over dramatize the sermon, over amplify the music and under amplify the simple straight-forward message of the cross. Paul knew that any ministry that did not focus on the death of Jesus for our sins and His resurrection to give us life, would be powerless to truly change people.

Cause me to simply and clearly speak the truth of Your word. Give me power as I share the message of Your death for us on the cross. 17-18

Jesus lives in us to express His wisdom and power to a lost world.

Jesus, demonstrate through me the power of God and the wisdom of God. 24

This is one of the few places in the Bible where I feel over-qualified. Doesn't it excite you to see how God is working through you to shame and nullify the so-called power and wisdom of the world?

Use me, foolish and weak, to shame the wise and strong of the world. Use me, lowly and not yet all I will be, to nullify the things of the world. Keep me from ever boasting about myself. 27-29

The word becomes alive and powerful in us as we believe and receive it.

Jesus, cause me to appropriate the wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and redemption that You are in me. Cause me to brag only on You. 30-31

Chapter 2

We are flooded with manipulative, exaggerated, half-truths called advertising and news. Sadly, the church has copied many of the world's techniques. How I long to see and how the world needs to see demonstrations of the

Spirit and power.

Keep me from trying to manipulate people with words. Cause Your message to go forth through me as a demonstration of the Spirit and power so people's faith won't be based on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God. 4-5

*** Back in 1971, I (Tom) had been trying to clean up my life by going to church more and reading Christian books. By the end of the year, it was very obvious my cleanup effort wasn't working. One Sunday afternoon the Lord seemed to be asking me how my cleanup campaign was going. When I acknowledged my failure, He said, "How about letting Me clean up your life?" I responded that I didn't think He could do it either. I was taken aback when He said He couldn't do any worse a job than I had been doing and why didn't I give Him a chance? I couldn't argue with His logic so I agreed to let Him take over. I stretched out my hands and opened them with palms down and said, "Here is the whole mess and especially these problem areas." For years I had given Him most of my life but had held onto a few areas until I could get them cleaned up. The more I cleaned, the worse they got. Now they were all His.*

There was such a peace and a deep cleansing in me like I had never experienced before. It was as if my relationship with God was new and pure and there was nothing in the way to block our fellowship. Life began to change dramatically that day and has continued to this day.

*I found out later I had met God's conditions for being filled with the Holy Spirit. My yielded surrender allowed the powerful Holy Spirit to take over and do things in and through me that were wonderful. What about you? Are you still trying to live the Christian life in your own strength? It can't be done. Surrender and let Jesus fill you with Himself and His life and power. ***

We sometimes read verse 9 and wonder when we will see and hear these things. The truth is that these things are clearly revealed in the New Testament and the Holy Spirit is trying to reveal them to our spirit if we will listen.

Jesus, fully reveal to me and cause me to understand all the things You have prepared for those who love You. Show me, through the Holy Spirit, the deep things of God. 9-10

Isn't there something inside you that makes you want to have and know all that God has freely given you?

Holy Spirit, make me know the things freely given to me by God. Cause me to speak them clearly to those I am discipling. Cause me to fully understand what is going on and to have Your mind, Lord Jesus. 12-13,16

Chapter 3

Paul's letters are full of spiritual meat. He reminds us that if we have jealousy and strife we are in the flesh and walking like ordinary men and not like Spirit-filled children of the living God.

Grow me up and give me solid food. Keep me from jealousy and strife and from pitting one of Your ministers against another. Father, increase the church spiritually and numerically. 1-7

At the judgment seat of Christ, all our works will be tested by fire. All our fleshly activity will be burned, but everything we allowed the Holy Spirit to do through us will bring eternal reward. It is so essential that we watch to see where God is working and join Him in His work and not just do our own good things.

Use me to build carefully on the works You have already started. Cause me to build with work that can stand the test of fire and be deserving of a reward. Keep me from works that would be burned up. 10-11,13-15

We believers are literally God's temple and He lives in us. We don't just come into His presence on Sunday morning, but we live with Him day-to-day.

Ensure I fully know that I am Your temple and that You, Holy Spirit, dwell in me. Keep me from doing or not doing things that would destroy my body. Cause me to be holy. 16-17

Research has shown that the higher our IQ, the easier it is to be deceived by con men, and this probably applies to being deceived by the devil also. We must keep our focus on Jesus and His word and not on men. These verses also remind us that this world doesn't belong to the devil and his followers. He lost it and Jesus bought it and us at Calvary. Now everything belongs to Jesus and us.

Keep me from deceiving myself and depending on my own wisdom. Stop me from bragging on men. Make me

know that all things are mine and that I am Yours, Jesus. 18-23

Chapter 4

The mysteries are no longer mysteries to those who study and believe the New Testament. The primary mystery is that Jesus takes people who are dead in their trespasses and sins and comes into their lives and gives them a new heart, a new nature, eternal life and begins to live His life through them.

Lord Jesus, work in me so I am a faithful steward of Your mysteries. 1-2

Jesus tells us in Matthew 7:1 that if we judge others, we will be judged.

Don't let me judge anyone since You plan to do the judging when You return. Purify my thoughts and cause me to do those things for which You can praise me. 5

Like Paul, we should work diligently and allow Jesus to direct our response to others.

Teach me to work diligently at the tasks You give me. Cause me to bless when reviled, to suffer patiently when persecuted and to make things right with others when possible. 12-13

We have so many words through radio, television, books, music, teaching and yet so little real power. Let's seek God in prayer until our words have His anointing and power.

Cause me to express Your kingdom in power and not just in words. 20

Chapter 5

The Christian life is primarily a joy-filled, peace-filled life. However, there are times when grief and mourning over the condition of a sick, sin-filled, powerless church will bring tears and agonizing cries for revival of the church and a spiritual awakening in this lost, dying world.

Cause me to mourn over and pray about sin in the church and to properly deal with sin in my life. 1-2

We are to walk in sincerity and truth. We are not to have a deep friendship with someone who pretends to be a Christian and yet lives in open sin.

Keep me from malice and wickedness and fill me with sincerity and truth. Stop me from associating with someone who calls himself a Christian and yet lives in open sin. 8,11

Chapter 6

Our lack of unity within individual churches, within denominations and between different denominations greatly impacts our effectiveness in reaching a lost world.

Teach us how to settle our differences within the church and how to use spiritually mature church members to help make decisions among us. 5

Although the world almost totally accepts immorality as normal, there is no place for it in our lives as Christians.

Keep me from moral impurity. 13,18

Spend some time meditating on how hard it was for the Father to put on His loving, obedient Son, Jesus, the punishment that we fully deserved. That was the price it cost God to buy us.

Cause me to deeply know that my body is Your temple, Holy Spirit, and that You are in me. Make me understand that I am not my own but have been bought with a price. Ensure I glorify You, Lord, in my body. 19-20

Chapter 7

Wives need security and loving communication. Husbands need respect and physical attention.

Cause the husbands of the body to meet the needs of their wives and the wives to meet the needs of their husbands. 3-5

There are serious, lasting consequences from divorce, especially for the children.

Keep me from the devastations of divorce. 10-16

Chapter 8

We never really know the truth until we know what God thinks about a situation. We can know for sure that we are His and He is ours.

Keep me from thinking I know it all. Cause me to really know You, Father, and that all things come from You. See to it that I really know You, Jesus, and that all things come through You and that I was created for You. 2,6

There are always people watching us to see if our Christianity is real and worthwhile.

Keep me from taking liberties that cause my brothers to stumble. 8-13

Chapter 9

Take care of those who are watching over your soul and helping you to grow spiritually.

Teach me to properly support those who minister to me spiritually. 11

Those in full time ministry probably should never get rich from it, but neither should they live in poverty. Let God show you your part in meeting the needs of who are laying down their lives for the gospel.

Lead me in providing a living for those who proclaim the gospel. If You want me to make a living proclaiming the gospel, make sure I clearly know that. 14

Everywhere we are and in everything we do, we are representatives of Jesus Christ.

Cause me to relate well with different people in order to lead them to You, Lord Jesus. Work in me so I do all things for the sake of the gospel. 22-23

The devil can not take away our salvation, but he tries to make us useless in kingdom work by getting us caught up in worldly activities and the pursuit of wealth and pleasure.

Cause me to so live that I am effective in kingdom work. Keep me from being tricked, trapped or deceived and becoming useless to You. 24-27

Chapter 10

Every time life got easy for the Israelites, they seemed to forget God and plunge into the world. It is very easy for us to do the same thing. If riches increase, we must not set our heart on them (Psalm 62:10).

Keep me from craving evil things like the Israelites did in the wilderness. Don't let me put anything or anyone before You in my life. Keep me from impurity, complaining and from testing Your patience. 6-10

A study of the Old Testament is essential for our spiritual growth. In it we read about real people going through the same kind of problems we face.

Cause me to learn from the examples in the Old Testament and live the way You want. Keep me from thinking I can make it without You. 11-12

We often are more interested in an excuse to sin than in finding the way of escape.

Father, thank You for a way of escape from every temptation. Make sure I see and take the way of escape and survive every temptation. Teach me to flee from idolatry. 13-14

We are told to come out of the world and be separate from it (2 Corinthians 6:17). This limits our participation in many of the activities of an immoral, sin-filled world.

Cause me to know that I am part of Your body and joined to You, Jesus. Keep me from trying to be united with You and still be involved in things of the devil. 17,21

We live to bring glory to Jesus and to build up the body of Christ.

Cause me to do things that are profitable to You and good for others. Cause me to so live that everything I do brings glory to You. 23-24,31

Even though Jesus was pure, holy and sinless, sinners were drawn to Him. When He is in control in our lives, they will be drawn to us also.

Make me as pleasing and helpful as possible to others so that they may be saved. 33

Chapter 11

We all desperately need discipling by more mature believers.

Teach me to follow the example of godly Christians. 1

Our fight is with the devil and not with other believers.

Lord, put an end to divisions among us. Make it obvious which ones in the body are doing what You want. 19

Our Father takes the Lord's supper very seriously. We would be wise to ask Holy Spirit to point out anything in our lives that needs to be dealt with before we partake.

Cause me to properly partake of the Lord's supper in a way that reminds me of Your death and honors You. Cause me to examine myself carefully and have my sins confessed so You do not have to send judgment upon me. 25-30

Chapter 12

God doesn't want us to be ignorant about spiritual gifts and He is willing to teach us.

Make me knowledgeable about spiritual gifts. 1

Without the proper expression of the gifts of the Spirit, the body suffers.

Cause the gifts of the Spirit to come forth fully in the body. Cause each one of us to have manifestations of the Spirit for the common good. 4-7

Just as we need those around us in the church, our church needs the help, encouragement and wisdom in other churches and denominations.

Cause us to know that our church or our denomination does not fully make up the body of Christ. Make sure we know that we need each other in order to function as You desire. 12-18

We want God to tell us which group is right and which group is wrong. He would probably point out to us that if we don't love each other, both groups are wrong. If we deeply loved each other, the other differences would seem minor and could quickly be resolved. We need to be filled with His love for others.

Put an end to factions within the body and cause us to care deeply for one another. Make us know we are all members of Your body. 25-27

We expect the pastor and staff to have all the gifts and do it all. God clearly tells us the gifts are distributed throughout the body so we can all have a part in building each other up and equipping each other.

Father, cause us to recognize those You have placed in the church. Make us understand that different people have different gifts. Cause each of us to seek earnestly and to receive the best gifts. 28-31

Chapter 13

Paul is not saying that tongues and prophecy are worthless. He is saying that if they are done without love they are worthless.

Cause me to speak clearly in love. Cause the body to have the gift of prophecy, know all mysteries and knowledge and have all faith, and most importantly to be filled with love. 1-2

You can't work up this kind of love. As we yield to Jesus, He expresses this kind of love through us.

Build in me Your love which is long-suffering, kind, not envious, not self-exalting or puffed up. Keep me from acting inappropriately, seeking my own way, being easily provoked, thinking about or rejoicing in evil. 4-5

God's love in us enables us to rejoice, bear, believe, hope and endure.

Lord Jesus, work in me so I rejoice in the truth, bear all things, believe all things, hope all things and endure all things. 6-7

If someone tells us their love for someone has died, we can assure them it was their own human love. God's love never fails or dies.

Fill me with Your love that never fails or dies. 8

After faith becomes sight and hope becomes realized in heaven, love will continue and endure forever.

Lord, make sure I am filled with faith, hope and especially love. 13

Chapter 14

Paul begins to focus on the importance of sharing with others what God is saying to us through His word and in prayer.

Cause me to love. Use the spiritual gifts You have placed in me and especially cause me to prophesy. 1 ** To prophesy is to tell others what God is saying to you. **

Only a portion of the things God is speaking to a church body is given to the pastor. Much is spoken to the body and we need to hear from each other in order to discern God's direction for the church.

Cause the body to prophesy and thus edify, exhort and comfort each other. Cause many in the body to prophesy so the church will be edified. 3-5

If spiritual gifts are not in operation under the control of the Holy Spirit, the church is not being built up the way it should be.

Cause the body to excel in spiritual gifts so the church will be edified. 12

The world currently sees nothing supernatural about the church and assumes there is no God and that we are just playing games. Leonard Ravenhill wisely said, "The church is either supernatural or it is superficial."

Prophesy through the body in ways that cause unbelievers and those ignorant of spiritual gifts to be deeply convicted by all they see and hear. Disclose the secrets of their hearts and cause them to fall on their faces and worship You, declaring You are certainly in us. 24-25

These verses so clearly tell us that church is not to be a one man show. We all are to have a part.

Cause us to properly involve many during our services allowing all to grow in expressing what You are saying through them. 26-30

The devil loves to cause extreme expressions or counterfeit expressions of the gifts of the Spirit so that most of the church will avoid the gifts completely.

Work in us all to prophesy so all will learn and be comforted, and ensure it is done decently and in order. 31-32,40

Chapter 15

There are lots of Biblical truths we could share with lost people. This is the key one.

Lord Jesus, teach me to keep Your death for our sins, Your burial and Your resurrection in first place in my sharing with unbelievers. 3-4

Paul knew that it was God's powerful grace at work in him that enabled him to do all that he did.

Work powerfully in me with Your grace to make me who You want me to be. 10

Since we know that Christ is risen from the dead and is our sure hope of eternal life, we should not waiver in our love and devotion to Him.

Fully convince me that You have been raised from the dead, that my faith is not in vain, that I am no longer in my sins, and that Christians who have died are with You. 17-18

Believe it and confess it, we are dead to the world and alive to God.

Cause me to be made fully alive in You. Remind me daily that I am dead to myself and the world and alive to You. 22,31

God is serious about sin and we must be also.

Holy Father, cause me to be aware of Your righteousness and turn from my sins. 34

It will definitely be worth it.

Ensure that I am steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in Your work, knowing that my labor is not in vain in You. 58

Chapter 16

We give to kingdom work because God has given us so much. We give out of love, not out of guilt or coercion.

Cause me to give appropriately according to how You are prospering me. 2

If people had not provided for Paul, we would be missing big chunks of our New Testament. Let God show you who you are to help support.

Use me to help send out and provide for Your workers. 6

God still has wide doors of effective service for those of us who are willing to serve Him.

Open a wide door for effective service for me and for the body. Give us power over our adversaries. 9

Our Father wants us to do these things and is at work in us to bring it about.

Cause me to watch carefully, stand fast in the faith, be strong and do everything in love. Give me the grace to submit to those You send to disciple me. 13-14,16

♥ *A few days after I (Tom) gave Jesus permission to take over my life completely, the devil came by to remind me what I had given up. He had an awesome list of things I would never be able to do again. Life seemed totally empty and dead. I used the prayer Peter prayed when he was sinking in the Sea of Galilee after walking on the water. "Lord, help!" The devil left and the phone rang and the Lord began to fill my life with Spirit-*

filled people and kingdom activities. He hasn't stopped since.

How about you? Is your focus on what you have given up? Ask the Lord to open your eyes to the kingdom work He has for you. Ask Him to give you Spirit-filled Christian friends. Most of all, ask for a real, close relationship with the Lord, Himself. He really wants you to have it.

♥

2 CORINTHIANS

Chapter 1

As God ministers to us through the body, He is teaching and equipping us to minister to others later.

Father, comfort me and equip me to comfort others. As I go through suffering, give me Your abundant comfort. 4-5

Apart from Jesus, everything we do is dead works. Our trust is not in our ability to figure out the right answer, but in God's ability to lead us in the right paths.

Lord Jesus, keep me from trusting in myself or others but cause me to trust in You. Set me free from dead works. 9

The best gift you can give others is fervent prayer for them and their families.

Cause me to help others by praying for them. Keep me giving thanks to You as You pour out blessings on me. 11

Christianity is not a show or a performance. It is the simple flow of Christ's life through us day-by-day.

Prompt me to conduct myself in simplicity, godly sincerity and in Your grace, not in fleshly wisdom. 12

Our Father is ready and waiting on us to present His promises back to Him in prayer so He can say "yes" and meet our needs.

Eternal Father, teach me to present Your promises back to You so You can say yes to my prayers. 20

Jesus is the one who anoints us and establishes us in His work. The Holy Spirit in us constantly assures us we belong to the Lord.

Anoint me and establish me in You, Jesus. Thank You for sealing me and giving me the Holy Spirit as the assurance that I am Yours. 22

Chapter 2

Refusing to forgive is like turning our back on God and opening the door wide open to the devil.

Cause me to forgive those who wrong me or the body so that Satan cannot take advantage of me. Keep me from being ignorant of his devices. 10-11

Our Lord Jesus Christ is the one who always leads us in triumph and manifests His life through us.

Lord Jesus, always cause me to triumph. Manifest Your life through me everywhere I go. 14

Many corrupt and misuse the word, but we are to sincerely tell others what God is teaching us.

Keep me from corrupting Your word. Cause me to sincerely present You to others. 17

Chapter 3

What are others reading when they read the letter of our lives?

Cause me to effectively communicate Your message, through my words and deeds, to those to whom You send me. 3

We are insufficient and inadequate for every assignment, but God is totally sufficient and adequate.

Don't let me ever think I am sufficient to do anything for the kingdom by myself. Make me know I am empowered and made sufficient by You. 5

Much so called Christian ministry is still old covenant guilt and law. We need to carefully interpret the Bible in the light of New Testament grace so we minister life, not death. Our message is not one of "doing things to earn God's favor", but one of "things already done by Jesus" so we can walk in victory.

Cause me to be an able servant of grace and of the Spirit who gives life. Don't allow me to minister the letter or law that brings death. Bring forth through me the ministry of the Spirit and righteousness that are full of glory. 6,8-9

When we realize what great things God has done for us, we boldly share what He can do for others.

Cause me to have such a hope in Your ability to bring life to others through me, that I speak simply and straightforwardly about You. 12

God is changing us into the likeness of Jesus as we look upon Jesus day-by-day.

Keep on changing me, Lord, into Your image and open my heart and mind to really see and know You. 18

Chapter 4

Purity and truth in our lives convict lost people and make them aware of their need for Jesus.

Keep me from hidden, dishonest things and from changing Your word. Cause me to speak and demonstrate Your truth in a way that touches the conscience of lost people and draws them to You. 2

Anyone who gets a look at the real Jesus will want Him. Our job is to remove blindfolds through prayer so lost people can see Jesus.

Lord, use me to remove the blindfolds that keep people from seeing and knowing You. 4

We talk about ourselves far too much and not near enough about Jesus.

Keep me from talking about myself, but cause me to clearly present You, Jesus, and myself as Your servant. 5

Does God really want His awesome power to show up through us? This verse indicates that He does.

Demonstrate Your awesome power through me in ways that bring people to know You. 7

Our response to hard times and troubles is the best indication of whether our Christianity is real or just a show. Therefore, God doesn't always keep us from having problems, but delivers us through them. At the same time He reveals the life of Jesus through us to a lost and problem-filled world.

When I am troubled, keep me from being distressed and when I am perplexed, keep me from despair. Don't forsake me when I am persecuted and when I am knocked down, don't let me be destroyed. As Your death works in me, manifest Your life clearly through me. 8-12

Everything that is going on around us is for our sake and the sake of the kingdom. Ask God to use the things that surround your life to bring more people into the kingdom.

Use everything that happens to me to bring more and more people to know You. 15

Don't focus on your aging body, but focus on being spiritually all you can be.

Father, don't let me become discouraged because I am growing older, but teach me to concentrate on my spirit which is growing stronger every day. Keep me from focusing on present trouble, but cause me to think

instead of the tremendous rewards You have for me in eternity. 16-17

We need to be eternity conscious and evaluate our actions in the light of their impact in eternity. Remember, everything you see except for people will soon be burned up.

Keep me from looking at visible things that are only temporary. Cause me to see and do in the Spirit those things that will matter in eternity. 18

Chapter 5

Without faith it is impossible to please God.

Lord Jesus, teach me to walk by faith, not by sight. Prepare me so I am ready to come and be with You whenever it's time. Make sure everything I do is done in ways that are pleasing to You. 7-8

Every believer will stand alone before the judgment seat of Christ and answer for everything we thought, said and did on earth.

Cause me to so live that I am not embarrassed and humiliated at Your judgment seat. 10

We are embarrassed to talk about hell and have largely lost our sense of how real and awful it really is.

Knowing the awesomeness of Your judgment and the awfulness of Hell, cause me to persuade men to give their lives to You. 11

From birth, the world tries to teach us to live for ourselves and to watch out for ourselves. Because He died for us, Jesus demands that we live for Him.

Make sure I submit fully to Your loving control since You died for me and put to death my old sinful nature. Don't let me live for myself but cause me to live for You, Who died and rose again on my behalf. 15

We are to follow Jesus and those leaders through whom we see the life of Christ expressed.

Keep me from following people simply because of their degrees, wealth, beauty or ancestry. Cause me to know You, Lord, as You are, high and lifted up, the King of kings and Lord of lords with all authority and power. 16

The verb tenses here clearly tell us the old nature is dead and that we have a new nature. Don't let the devil deceive you into believing your old nature is still alive just because a few old, bad habits are still in your life.

Cause me to know I am a new creation with a new nature, that the old nature is dead and I have a new heart and a live spirit. Use me to teach this truth to others. 17

You are an ambassador of Jesus Christ and have the ministry of reconciliation.

Use me as a reconciler and ambassador who helps people get into right relation with you. 20

Chapter 6

God gave us the grace to believe on Jesus and be saved. He is giving us the grace to serve Him faithfully and to endure hardship as necessary. Receive the grace you need and press on to the battle ahead.

Keep me from receiving Your grace in vain. Don't allow me to do things that discredit the ministry. See to it that I am a good servant in all things that come my way. 1-10

Christians are not to marry nonchristians. (This does not apply to an existing marriage) Christians should not enter into business partnerships with nonbelievers since their goals in life are totally different.

Stop me from being in partnership with unbelievers since I have nothing in common with them. 14-15

You really are the temple or a container of the living God. Live like it.

Jesus, make me know that I am Your temple and that You live and walk in me. 16

Is your life different or do you look just like the rest of the world?

Cause me to come out from the lost world and not touch the unclean things. Work in me to know You intimately, Father, and enjoy being Your child. 17-18

Chapter 7

God is ready, willing and able to clean up our lives if we will allow Him.

Since I am Yours and You are my Father, cleanse me from all filthiness of flesh and spirit. Teach me to live in holiness out of reverence for You. 1

Genuine repentance and cleansing of the church will result in the salvation of multitudes.

Give the body godly sorrow that leads to genuine repentance with the result that many are saved. 9-10

It is so easy to exaggerate and brag and lose our credibility with lost people who are experts at these things. When we call ourselves a Christian, they have a right to expect the truth from us.

Cause me to speak truthfully in everything and to so live that people can have confidence in me. 14-16

Chapter 8

We need to respond when the Holy Spirit prompts us to support those who are advancing the kingdom of God.

Prompt me to be eager to participate in the support of those You have called into vocational Christian service. 4

The Macedonians first gave themselves to God and then they were eager to use their resources to accomplish things that God wanted accomplished.

Ensure that I give all I am and have to You and allow You to use me and my money as You see fit. Lord, cause me to be spiritually rich. 5,9

God allows both need and abundance to come to our lives to keep us from becoming isolated and self-centered.

Prompt me to give to the needs of other believers out of my abundance and to receive from others when I have need. 14-16

Never put yourself in a place where you are tempted to mishandle or misuse the money given to the church. Make sure you are accountable to others.

Make sure I am very careful in the handling of church money so there is never a question of misuse. 20-21

Chapter 9

You reap what you sow and according to how you sow - period.

Teach me to sow the right things bountifully, so I can reap bountifully. See to it that I give cheerfully as You direct. Cause Your grace to abound to me so that I always have all sufficiency in everything and have an abundance for every good work. 6-8

As I have written the prayers in my books, I have asked the Lord to make them seed and bread. I also ask the Father to multiply the good result from them and bring forth righteousness. If you are being blessed, be sure to express your

thanks and appreciation to our heavenly Father.

Lord, provide me with seed to sow and the bread of life to share. Multiply my seed and increase the product of my righteousness. Make me rich in every way so I have plenty to give resulting in thanksgiving to You. 10-11

♥ *God promises to give us all we need to produce significant kingdom results in others* ♥

The goal of all of us should be to benefit God's people and bring lots of thanks and praise to God. Thank you for your prayers for us and for recommending these books to others. This helps expand our ministry and helps us help others.

Use the things You do through me to provide great benefit to Your people. Cause my service to bring an abundance of thanks to You. Prompt many to pray for, support and open doors of ministry for me because of the grace You have given. 12-14

I really want people to be able to see God working through my life. Don't you?

Make sure there is such evidence of Your working through me that many will glorify You and many prayers will be prayed for me because of Your tremendous grace at work in me. 13-14

Chapter 10

We are in a spiritual war and there will be no survivors. We must learn to fight in the Spirit and not in the flesh. Whenever our sins are confessed up-to-date and our actions are pleasing to God, then He works through us to defeat our enemies.

Keep me from using worldly methods to fight spiritual battles. Cause me to excel in spiritual warfare. Use Your mighty power through me to destroy strongholds, imaginations and every thing that tries to keep people from knowing You. Take my every thought captive to obey You. Cause the obedience of the church body to be complete, so You can punish the disobedient. 3-6

We are constantly tempted to look at external, outward appearances. Only Jesus can show us the heart of another and tell us the truth about any situation.

Don't let me concentrate on the external or have confidence in myself. Cause me to see what You are doing and saying in me and in others. 7

We often compare ourselves with others and our church with other churches so we can brag. The only thing good in us and our church is what Jesus is doing, so let's brag only on Him.

Keep me from comparing myself with others, but cause me to compare myself with what You want me to be. Make sure I brag only on You and seek Your approval. 12-13,17

Chapter 11

The devil doesn't care much what we focus on or who we relate to so long as it isn't Jesus.

Keep me from being tricked and drawn away from my relationship to You, Lord Jesus. Ensure I clearly recognize when someone is preaching a different Jesus, different spirit or a different gospel. Even if they are disguised as an angel of light, or apostles or ministers of righteousness, enable me to recognize who they really serve. 3-4,13-15

Chapter 12

If we were as smart as we think we are, we would rejoice when we feel weak and inadequate because that is when Jesus shows up most clearly and powerfully through our lives.

God of all grace, provide sufficient grace for all I face. Perfect Your strength in my weakness. Teach me to be glad I am weak, because when I am weak, You are strong in me. 9-10

We can definitely use some true apostles and real signs, wonders and mighty deeds in today's godless, lost world.
Cause the signs of true apostles to be performed among us with all perseverance by signs, wonders and mighty deeds. 12

Chapter 13

A person is either a Christian or a nonchristian. Christians have Jesus living in them. They are to do what is right and are growing in spiritual maturity.

Make me realize that You are in me if I am a Christian. Work in me so I am completely honest and keep me from doing anything evil. Cause me to become a mature Christian. 5,7,9

With your cooperation, Jesus is working in you to bring joy, maturity, comfort, unity and peace.

Make me into a mature, powerful Christian who lives in agreement with those in Your body. 11

GALATIANS

Chapter 1

Jesus died so we could live in victory through faith in Him.

Father, deliver me out of this present evil age according to Your will. Don't let me be deceived into believing anything that is contrary to Your gospel of grace. 4

All the old heathen religions are being renamed and promoted in the world today. Stick close to God's word and pray that you not be deceived.

Keep me from ever being led away from Your truth into a different gospel. Don't let me be deceived by false religions or false doctrines the devil tries to insert into Christianity. Give me power to resist those promoting false doctrines disguised as Christianity and expose them as false. 6-9

Every Christian leader is tempted to try and please men rather than God. We need to pray for them and for ourselves.

Father, keep me from seeking to please man. So work in me that I concentrate on pleasing and serving You. 10

You were called and equipped for kingdom work. Are you fulfilling your assignment?

Make sure I clearly know what You have called and equipped me to do in Your kingdom and make sure I do it. Especially cause me to know that Jesus is in me and use me to reveal Him to the lost world. 15-16

Chapter 2

Don't let anyone lay their form of legalism on you.

Keep me from being brought into any bondage by those who teach any form of legalism. 4

The Lord is willing to lead us to those He wants to reach through our lives.

Lord Jesus, make me know those to whom You are sending me. Prompt me to properly remember the poor. 7,10

Paul had no sympathy for legalism of any form because he knew how much it cost Jesus to give us grace instead of law.

Don't let me be deceived and give in to those caught up in legalism or tradition. Make sure I walk uprightly according to the truth of the gospel. 13-14

Although a saved person will do good works, his salvation is through faith and in no way is a result of his good

works.

Thank You for salvation by faith in Jesus alone. Keep me from ever trusting in or relying on my works. 16

The Holy Spirit through Paul tells us over and over that our old nature is dead. It is embarrassing that so much of the church still talks about the old nature fighting the new nature.

Make sure I know that I am dead to the old nature and that You, Jesus, are alive in me. Make me live by Your life, faith and abilities and not by my own. 20

Chapter 3

The Christian life is absolutely impossible to live in our own strength. Only Jesus, who lives in us, can live the Christian life. Ask Him to take over control in your life.

Having been born again by the Spirit, don't let me try to live the Christian life in the strength of the flesh. Jesus, take over as Lord of my life, I give myself completely to You. 3

Seems clear that God wants to fill us with His Spirit and work miracles among us. Isn't it time we asked Him in faith to do this.

Cause me to hear You with faith in ways that let You fill me with the Holy Spirit and work miracles through me. 5

You can either waste your life trying to keep the law or you can walk in grace. Don't mix them together. I choose grace, how about you?

Keep me from substituting works of the law for day-by-day faith in Your working through me. Don't let me live in a mixture of law and grace. 10

As you talk to most lost people, you will find they are depending on their good life and their good works to get them into heaven. In other words, they are trying to make it to heaven under the law. Cults and false religions substitute law for grace and faith. Even as Christians we sometimes think we earn God's favor by our good works.

Lord Jesus, see to it that I live by faith. 11

Occult groups are often trying to place curses on God's people. Proverbs 26:2 tells us an undeserved curse shall not come upon us. Jesus has taken on Himself on the cross everything we deserved, including curses. So now, according to His word, we deserve them no longer and they cannot come upon us. Confess this truth.

In the powerful name of Jesus, I resist every curse that comes against me or my family since Jesus has already fully paid for them on the cross. 13

The blessings promised to Abraham are ours, too, through our faith in Jesus Christ.

Cause me to fully receive all the blessings of Abraham. 14

We Christians truly are God's kids and have put on the righteousness of Christ and have within us the life of Christ. He is expressing His life through us.

So work in me that I live like Your child and put on all You are, Lord Jesus. 27

We are one body and there is one church made up of all true believers.

Destroy the denominational, racial, social, and gender barriers within the body of Christ. 28

Chapter 4

There is no place in the life of a Christian for superstition or other godless traditions that seek to replace our day-to-day relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

Don't let me ever return to man's superstitions, religious rules and traditions. 9-10

Although the Galatian Christians knew Jesus, their focus on law and tradition kept them from growing spiritually. God wants to make us like Jesus and then use us to help others become like Him.

Father, form Christ in me. Lead me in praying for and discipling others until Christ is formed in them. 19

We are to walk in the Spirit by faith and not live for the flesh.

Cause me to live like a child of faith, not a child of the flesh. 23,28

Chapter 5

There is always someone around wanting to lay a "guilt trip" on us because we are not doing something they think we should be doing. Our job is to stay in close fellowship with Jesus and day-by-day do what He tells us to do.

Keep me standing fast in the liberty You have given. Do not allow me to become a slave again to the flesh and the law. 1

Ever thought of giving up? That is not God's plan. He has available for you all the grace you need to make it through one day at a time.

Ensure I run well and obey Your truth. 7

This is another way of telling us to not tolerate sin in our lives just because we know God will forgive it. When we sin, it hurts us and others.

Don't let me use my liberty under grace as an occasion for sin. Work in me so I serve others in love. 13

Don't focus on the flesh. Focus on walking in the Spirit and that automatically eliminates fleshly activities.

Lord Jesus, cause me to walk in the Spirit and not carry out my own selfish plans. 16

As we walk with Christ in the Spirit, we automatically put off all the fleshly activities listed in these verses.

Ensure I follow the leading of the Spirit and not the demands of the law. Keep me from doing the works of the flesh. 18-21

Don't focus on trying to build joy or kindness into your life. Focus on walking in the Spirit. As we walk in the Spirit, He brings forth love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, meekness and self-control.

Bring forth the fruit of the Spirit in fullest measure in me. 22-23

We are dead to the flesh and alive to the Spirit. Believe this and confess it.

Make me fully realize that my flesh, with its affections and lusts, has been crucified. Lord, I confess that I am dead to the flesh and alive to the Holy Spirit. 24

The only possible way to live the Christian life is through the power of the Holy Spirit. You can't do it on your own.

Father, since I live in the Spirit, make sure I walk in the Spirit. 25

I think the Holy Spirit focuses on these three fleshly activities because we tend to overlook or excuse them in our lives.

Keep me from bragging on myself, irritating others, or envying anyone. 26

Chapter 6

Don't judge or condemn believers who slip into sin. Instead, humbly and gently help them get set free. You may need them to help you later.

Show me how to help restore those caught in sin. Make sure I go to them in a spirit of meekness and keep me from yielding to temptation during the process. 1

As we go through life, we get to experience times of bearing the burdens of others. There will also be times when others help bear burdens that are too heavy for us.

See to it that I help bear the burdens of others and thus fulfill Your law of love. 2

Spiritual pride is so dangerous. We are not the ones who keep the kingdom running. However, we do have a small part in the work of the kingdom and we need to do it with all our heart.

Keep me from being deceived into thinking I am something great. Give me a deep joy and satisfaction when I do what You want. Make sure I fully do the work You give me. 3-5

We need to take good care of those who help us grow spiritually.

Show me how to give back good things to those who teach me Your word. 6

You will reap what you sow.

Keep me from sowing to the flesh and reaping corruption. Cause me to sow to the Spirit and reap from the Spirit everlasting life. 8

Don't ever quit or give up.

Keep me from getting tired of doing good. Make sure I don't give up before the harvest is gathered. 9

We are to seek ways of doing good to others, especially to other believers. Remember, what you sow, you will reap.

Give me insight into ways of doing good to all men and especially to Christians. 10

If Paul didn't have anything to brag about except Jesus, then we certainly don't either.

Don't let me brag about anything or anyone except You, Jesus. Keep the world crucified to me and me dead to the world. As I do this, pour out peace and mercy upon me. Fill my spirit with Your grace. 14-18

EPHESIANS

Chapter 1

Instead of asking God to bless us, we should ask Him to see to it that we appropriate and receive all those blessings that have already been given us. Remember Romans 8:32 tells us that when He gave us Jesus, He gave us everything else at the same time.

Make sure I appropriate all the spiritual blessings You have blessed me with in Christ. 3

We have the holiness and righteousness of Christ.

Holy Father, thank You for making me holy and without blame before You. 4

This is why you exist. This is your reason for living.

Keep me living to the praise of the glory of Your grace and knowing I am fully accepted because of You, my beloved Savior. Thank You for redemption and forgiveness by grace alone. 6-7

The Father wants you to know what He is doing in the world and is willing to keep you ready and looking forward to the return of His Son, Jesus Christ.

Make me know Your will, intention and purpose and get me ready for Your return. 9-10

As a believer, you are not and cannot be separated from the Lord Jesus Christ. You were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise and He is a zillion times stronger than super glue, scotch tape, duct tape or any other type of glue or tape. Hallelujah!

Holy Spirit in me, thank You for ensuring I am never separated from Jesus. Keep me living to the praise of His glory. 12-14

Pray this over and over for yourself, your friends and everyone you know.

Father, give me a spirit of wisdom and revelation and cause me to really know You. Open my eyes to see and know what You have called me to and the glory You are getting through me. Make me know and experience Your great power toward me. 17-19

The lost, the devil and the demons will be forced to submit, but we do it joyfully and willingly.

Cause me to be in complete obedience to You, Jesus, and to be filled to overflowing with You. 22-23

♥ *Once I (Tom) was teaching a group of high school students about prayer. I told them that we can pray for things now and the Lord can deliver in the future when needed. They asked for specifics, so I said I was praying for my future wife. When the giggling subsided, I said I was praying that my future wife would be able to play the guitar. They quickly embellished the story and soon everyone in the church had heard that I was looking for a tall, volleyball-playing blonde who could play the guitar.*

On a trip to Fort Worth two years later, a tall, attractive blonde named Marcia came walking through the room where I was visiting a friend. Just as she left, I noticed a guitar sitting in the corner. I asked Steve who played the guitar. He named himself and Carole. Then he added that Marcia played a little. I quickly made a note on my checklist.

A few months later after too many miracles to tell here, Marcia and I walked into the church I attended in Los Angeles. The youth choir was singing as we walked in and we could see them elbow each other and look our way. After the service they ran up and never even waited for introductions. Their question to Marcia was, "Do you play the guitar?" When she said "yes", they all assumed that we soon would be married and soon we were.

Years later one of the young men said that often during his prayer time he was encouraged as he remembered the guitar prayers we prayed and how the Lord answered. ♥

Chapter 2

Salvation comes by faith through grace and not by works. Hallelujah, what a deal!

Father, use me to help many find eternal salvation through faith in what Jesus did for us on the cross. Use me to point out the foolishness of trying to earn salvation in any way by our good works. 4-5

We are seated in the heavenly places already, but the best is yet to come. Glory to God!

Father, cause me to know that I have been raised up with You and seated with You in heaven in Christ Jesus. Cause me to experience all I can of the exceeding riches of Your grace and kindness. 6-7

God prepared the works because He has the plans and knows exactly what He wants to do through us. Our job is to cooperate and follow instructions from Him.

Work in me to do the things that You want to do through me. 10

We won't look down on others if we remember that we were once hopelessly lost and that Jesus had to die to pay for our sins. Instead, we will be stirred to tell others about Jesus and help them become part of God's family.

Father, keep me remembering that once I was hopelessly lost, but now I have been brought into Your family by the blood of Jesus. Cause me to be at peace and in harmony with other believers since we all came to You the same way through faith in Jesus. 13-19

We need each other in order to grow up as Christians. Ask the Lord to make sure you are properly fitted into the body of Christ.

Fit us together into effective, growing bodies through whom You can accomplish Your purposes and manifest Your life. 21-22

Chapter 3

Grace is the desire and power to do what God wants. Ask the God of all grace to give you plenty of grace to fully accomplish the works He has for you.

Give me the grace I need to accomplish the tasks You have for me. 7

Because of the relationship Jesus bought for us through His death on the cross, we can come boldly to God in prayer. We expect answers, not because we deserve them, but because Jesus in us deserves them.

Cause me to boldly and confidently come to You in Jesus' name. Strengthen me with might through Your Spirit inside me. 12,16

Another tremendous prayer the Holy Spirit gives us through Paul.

Jesus, rule in my heart and connect me completely to Your love. See to it that I grasp the magnitude of Your love for me and others. Fill me up with all that You are. 17-19

Chapter 4

These verses give us a picture of a worthy Christian life.

Make sure I walk in a worthy manner as a Christian. Develop in me lowliness, meekness, tolerance and the willingness to bear with others in love. Cause me to be careful to preserve unity within the body. 1-3

Whatever our gift, we are to use it to build up the body of Christ.

Bring forth the apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers as needed to equip the saints for the service of building up Your body. Bring the body into unity, into a deep knowledge of You and to the spiritual maturity You desire for it. 12-13

Large numbers of those caught up in godless cults are immature Christians who were never disciplined by those who led them to Christ. Many others were "church members" who had "joined a church" but had never come into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Keep me from being an immature Christian who is fooled by false doctrines or deceived by other people. Make sure I receive the discipling I need and use me to disciple others. 14

Truth without love is harsh and hard to receive. Love without truth is wishy-washy and wimpy. Truth spoken in love helps people grow up. Ask for a balance in your life.

Father, cause me to speak the truth in love and grow up as a Christian in every way. Cause me to be properly placed in the body and cause me to do my part to expand and edify the body of Christ. 15-16

When Jesus comes in to be Lord of our lives, He begins to make changes.

Keep me from living like the lost. Don't let me remain ignorant of or blind to You. Keep me from immorality and carnality. 17-19

Whenever the Bible tells us to put off some sin or bad habit, it also instructs us to put on the opposite character quality or action.

Make sure I put off those habits left from the old nature and let the full expression of the new nature come forth. Renew me to be like You in righteousness and true holiness. 22-24

When is a liar no longer a liar? It is when he stops lying and starts speaking only the truth.

Work in me to put off lying and put on truth. Cause me to put off anger and seek peace and reconciliation before the day ends. Keep me from giving the devil an opportunity. 25-27

A thief is to stop stealing and work and give to those in need. We are to stop saying filthy and unwholesome words and start speaking only that which builds up others.

See to it that I put off every form of stealing and instead work and give. Keep me from saying wrong things and cause me to start saying just the right thing at the right time. 28-29

We grieve the Holy Spirit by refusing to allow Jesus to be Lord of our lives and by pride, doubt and unbelief. We quench the Holy Spirit when we resist what He is doing in us or in others.

Keep me from grieving You, Holy Spirit, instead cause me to welcome You and allow You to fill and use me. 30

Do you see the pattern of "put off" and "put on"? Watch for it in your Bible reading.

Father, in Jesus' name I ask You to cause me to put off bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, evil speaking and malice. Work in me so I am kind, tenderhearted and forgiving. 31-32

Chapter 5

I think this is a prayer that the Father likes very much.

Cause me to be a child who is becoming like You, Father. Teach me to walk in love like Christ did. 1-2

When you see things the Father doesn't like, ask Him to keep you from doing them.

Keep me from sexual immorality, uncleanness and selfishness. Empty my mouth of filthiness, foolish talk and improper jesting and fill it with thanksgiving. 3-4

These things are not to be a part of a Christian's life.

Don't let me be morally impure or greedy. Keep anything from becoming an idol in my life. 5

These are things the Father clearly wants to do in us.

Cause me to walk as a child of the light. Fill me with goodness, righteousness and truth and keep me doing what is acceptable to You. 8-10

We must not join in with evil, instead we should expose it.

Father, keep me from joining in with evil people or talking about the wicked things they do. Use my life to make them see the wrong things they are doing. 11-12

Much of God's will for us is very clearly spelled out in the Bible. The following verses in Ephesians are some of the things we don't have to wonder about because God clearly states they are his will.

Lord Jesus Christ, cause me to walk as a wise man, redeeming the time in these evil days. Keep me from being foolish, but cause me to understand Your will. 15-17

We are not to be controlled by alcohol or drugs. We are to be controlled by and filled with the Holy Spirit.

Don't let me be controlled by alcohol, drugs or anything. Fill and control me, Holy Spirit. 18

Focus on speaking that which builds others up.

Keep me speaking to others with words from Psalms, hymns and spiritual songs, and singing and making

melody in my heart to You. 19

These verses direct us to give thanks for everything.

Father, cause me to be always giving thanks for all things to You, in Jesus' name. 20

We are to be in mutual submission to our spouse and to others in the body.

Teach me to submit to my spouse and others in the body out of reverence for You. 21

Genuine submission by a wife helps the husband grow in Christ-like love for his wife.

Cause me as a Christian wife to properly submit to my husband in everything just like the church is to be subject to You. 22-24

When husbands express Christ's love in a home, it makes submission much easier for the wife.

Cause me as a Christian husband to love my wife with the self-sacrificing love which You demonstrated toward the church. 25-27

Husbands, the best way to be nice to yourself is to be nice to your wife.

Cause me as a Christian husband to love my wife like I love myself. Make me understand that loving my wife is the same as loving myself since I have become one flesh with her. 28-31

Wives need genuine love. Husbands need genuine honor and respect.

Cause the husbands to love their wives like they love themselves and cause the wives to honor their husbands. 33

Chapter 6

Things go well when we honor our parents and don't go well when we dishonor them.

Cause the children to obey and honor their parents in the Lord. Make our children understand that things go well for kids who do this and that they will have fruitful lives. 1-2

Only God, the perfect Father, can give us the balance between too much and not enough discipline.

Keep me as a Christian father from provoking my children to wrath, but cause me to correct and teach the way You want. 3

Who do you work for?

Make sure I work hard and effectively for my employer. Prompt me to work like I was working directly for You, Lord. 5-7

Ultimately, no one gets away with anything. What we sow we reap.

Keep me from mistreating and threatening those who work for me. 8-9

God is not making us strong in the flesh, but strong in the Spirit.

Lord Jesus, see to it that I am strong in You and full of Your mighty power. 10

There is no safe time or place to take off the whole armor while on earth, so put it on and keep it on. Affirm as necessary that you have it on.

Cause me to put on and keep on Your whole armor and to stand against every plan of the devil. 11

Sometimes we forget who the real enemy is.

Keep reminding me that I am not fighting people, but fighting the devil. 12

God has provided all we need to stand in the evil day. Receive it and stand fast.

Lion of Judah, cause me to put on and keep on the whole armor You provide, so I can be steadfast and triumph no matter what comes against me. 13

These are spiritual weapons for a spiritual war.

Work in me to put on (and keep on) truth, righteousness, peace. See to it that I take up faith, salvation and Your word and use them effectively. 14-17

Real prayers are started by the Spirit of God inside us. When we pray we need to watch closely to see what is changing in and around us in response to our prayers.

Keep me praying and asking all the time in the Spirit. Cause me to always be watching carefully to see what You are doing and to know for whom You want me to pray. 18

The effectiveness of those speaking and preaching is directly related to the prayer support they have.

Father, especially give me prayers for those sharing the gospel with others. 19

Our Father has plenty of peace, love, faith and grace to give to those who ask Him.

Fill me and those I can influence with peace, love, faith and grace. 23-24

PHILIPPIANS

Chapter 1

Don't think in terms of what you can do to improve your life. Think in terms of what God can do to change you.

Father, work powerfully to perform Your good work in me. 6

This is another very powerful prayer for ourselves and others.

Cause my love to abound more and more in knowledge and all understanding. Make sure I approve the things that are excellent so I will be sincere and innocent until Jesus comes. Fill me with the fruit of righteousness and bring much praise and glory to Yourself. 9-11

Our Father is using the things that come into our lives to advance the gospel.

Use the things that happen to me to advance the gospel. Cause me to be bold enough to speak the word of God without fear. Lord, work in me to exalt Yourself through my life. 12-14,20

We have tremendous power when we stand and work together in unity.

Speak through the body of Christ things that advance Your gospel. Keep us standing fast in one spirit and striving together in unity for the gospel. 27

We have the privilege of suffering for Christ's sake.

God of all grace, give me the grace to suffer for Your sake when it is necessary. 29

Chapter 2

God's description of the ideal church.

Cause the body to be of one mind, filled with Your love, one in spirit and intent on making disciples. 2

When we serve in our own strength, for our own glory, nothing of kingdom significance happens.

Lord Jesus, don't let me do things in my own strength or for my own glory. Train me instead to be humble

and have a very high regard for others. Teach me to watch over and pray for the efforts of others as well as my own. 3-4

If we take care of God's reputation and seek to glorify Him, He will take care of us.

Cause me to be willing to give up my reputation and advantages in order to serve You so You can exalt me at the proper time. 6-9

God provides the desire to do what He wants and then He provides the power to do it.

Continue to work powerfully in me so that I desire what You want. Give me the power to do what You want me to do. 13

Thanksgiving is appropriate, but murmuring and disputing are not.

Lord, cause me to do all things without murmuring or disputing. Keep me blameless, pure and undefiled in this crooked and perverse generation. Make me appear as a light to the world and cause me to hold on tight to Your word. 14-16

It is essential that we focus on what God is doing and not on our own will since He has the plan.

Cause me to seek to know and do Your will, Lord, and not my own. 21

Sometimes the people God sends into our lives are not exactly the ones we would choose. We need to receive them because they are necessary for our spiritual growth.

Ensure I receive those men and women You send to me and that I honor them. 29

Chapter 3

As God's kids, we always have reasons to rejoice. As those who walk in the Spirit, we must never rely on the flesh.

Teach me to rejoice in You. Cause me to worship and rejoice in You and not trust man's abilities. 1,3

Our relationship with Jesus is much more important than any of our stuff.

Whatever I depend on for status, reputation or self-esteem that is not of You, cause me to lay it down so I can truly have all of You. 8

It doesn't make sense to rely on our own shaky righteousness when the perfect righteousness of Jesus is available for everyone who will receive it by faith.

Don't let me depend on my own righteousness in any area; instead cause me to receive Your righteousness by faith. 9

God is faithful to take us through the fellowship of Jesus' suffering and to conform us to His death so we can experience His power flowing through our lives.

Lord Jesus, cause me to know You and the power of Your resurrection and the fellowship of Your suffering and conformity to Your death. 10

Paul kept pressing on to be all God wanted him to be. We should do the same.

Draw me close to You so I can be all You want me to be. 12

We need the example of godly mentors to help us grow as believers. At the same time, others are growing as they watch us.

Teach me to follow the example of godly believers and avoid those who are enemies of the cross. 17-18

Chapter 4

We need to allow the Lord to give us the balance of standing firm for our convictions while at the same time living in harmony with other believers.

See to it that I stand fast in You and live in harmony with other believers. 1,2

When our lives are filled with rejoicing and thanksgiving, our problems don't seem nearly so bad. Knowing God is in control keeps us from being uptight and critical in our relationships with others.

Cause me to rejoice in You always. Keep me giving others the benefit of the doubt. 4-5

You have a choice. You can worry or pray. Don't worry: pray.

Don't let me worry about anything, but make sure I pray and ask about everything with thanksgiving. 6

As our world gets worse and worse, we have greater need to remain filled with God's peace.

Keep my heart and mind filled with Your incomprehensible peace. 7

When we meet someone, we usually talk about the worst thing we have experienced or heard about recently. God's way is to major on the best things.

Ensure that I dwell on things that are true, honest, just, pure, lovely, of good report, have virtue and deserve praise. 8

What we do speaks much more loudly than what we say. What we do indicates what we truly believe, regardless of what we say.

Cause me to put into practice the things I know to do. 9

Paul knew how to live frugally whether he had plenty or little.

Train me to be content with little or much. 12

This is one of those verses most of us know but few of us really believe

Strengthen me to do all that You want me to do. 13

If a millionaire gave us a dollar, he would have given to us out of his riches but not according to his riches. God wants to give according to His riches if we will believe and receive it.

Make sure I receive all You have for me and have plenty as You meet all my needs. 18-19

COLOSSIANS

Chapter 1

Paul consistently blesses his readers with grace and peace. They must be very important for us to have.

Father, fill me with grace and peace. 2

Remember, you are praying for things that your heavenly Father clearly wants to do. These next four prayers come from one of Paul's most powerful prayers.

Father, fill me with the knowledge of Your will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding. 9

Pray this for yourself, your family and all those around you.

Cause me and my family to walk in a manner worthy of and pleasing to You, Lord. See that I bear fruit in every good work and increase in the knowledge of You. 10

His power is available if we will ask and believe.

Strengthen me with all might according to Your glorious power so I will be patient, longsuffering and joyful. 11

Every time I read these verses, I feel very grateful for my transfer into God's kingdom. It also makes me remember those I know who are still in the kingdom of darkness.

Cause me to often give thanks to You for delivering me from the devil's kingdom of darkness and transferring me into the kingdom of Your Son and forgiving my sins. 12-13

Jesus deserves first place in our lives and in our church.

Lord Jesus, be preeminent in the church and in my life. 18

We are working with Jesus to help reconcile others to the Father.

Lord, work through me to reconcile all things to Yourself. 20

God is at work in us to do these things.

Lord, work in me to make me holy, beyond blame and uncondemned. Keep me firmly grounded and unmovable in the faith. 22-23

You are also a minister of reconciliation.

Cause me to fully minister to those to whom You send me. 25

Think about it for a while. The all powerful, eternal God, lives in you.

Cause me to know that You are in me and I am becoming like You. Keep working in me until I am mature in You. 27-28

Jesus is powerfully at work through every believer to build His kingdom.

Make me very effective in kingdom work as You work mightily within me. 29

Chapter 2

Comfort and unity flow out of knowing that Jesus lives in us and in every other believer.

Comfort my heart and bring me into unity with other believers in love. Cause me to attain to all the riches that come from fully knowing You. Fill me with all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge that You are. 2-3

God wants to mature our faith.

Develop in me an orderly and stable faith in You. 5

We became Christians by faith and we must grow as Christians by faith.

Just as I received You by faith, cause me to walk daily in faith with You. Cause me to be firmly rooted and built up in You. Establish me in my faith and cause me to abound with thanksgiving. 6-7

I think this is the only mention of philosophy in the Bible and it is in a negative light. This should make us very wary of stuff called philosophy.

Keep me from being confused through philosophy and vain deceit based on men's traditions and worldly

ways. Instead, fill me with that which is of You. 8

Completeness and maturity are ours if we will receive them.

Make sure I receive all the completeness and maturity that are in You. 10

These verses tell us we are dead to sin and law. If we believe this word, we will experience being dead to sin and the law. If we refuse to believe it, the devil will convince us we are not dead to sin and the law.

Make me alive to all You are and dead to sin and the law. Continue Your total triumph through me over the devil and his forces. 13-15

Christianity is not ritual, it is relationship.

Keep me from being deceived by religious rituals. Make me see that it isn't eating or not eating or observing certain days and seasons that brings me into a relationship with You. Instead, it is faith in You and in what You have done that keeps me close to You. 16-17

Through Jesus alone we have access to the Father.

Don't let me cut, mark or afflict my body to try to produce righteousness or humility. Keep me from ever praying to angels since they are only workers in Your kingdom. You alone are the head, Jesus, and from You come all the things needed by the body. Cause me to hold fast to You and receive from You all I need to grow and function in Your body. 18-19

Men are constantly coming up with different kinds of religious stuff to try to get to heaven. Nothing we can do will earn us a place in God's heaven. The good news is that Jesus did it all for us.

Make me completely dead to religious stuff made up by man. Make me understand that outward religious activity, humiliating myself or afflicting my body will never set me free from sin. Cause me to see that only Your blood cleanses me of sin and only Your life and power in me gives me day by day victory over sin. 20-22

Chapter 3

What does it mean to you to set your mind on heavenly things?

Make sure I keep seeking eternal, heavenly, kingdom things. Set my mind on heavenly things, not on earthly things. 1-2

Your old nature is dead and Jesus is now at the center of your life. You have no idea how significant these verses are.

Cause me to know that my old, sinful nature is dead and that now You are my life. 3-4

These are all things to be put off.

Make me dead to moral impurity and sins of the flesh. Take anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy and filthy talk out of my life. Keep me from lying. 5-9

Your new nature is like Jesus.

Cause me to really believe I have a new nature that is like You and that daily my thoughts, words and deeds are becoming more like You as You work in me. 10

These are things to put on.

Since You have chosen me and made me holy and called me beloved, cause me to put on mercy, kindness, humility, meekness and longsuffering. Keep me tolerating others and forgiving those with whom I disagree. Fill me with Your love for other believers. 12-14

The presence or absence of peace is a tremendous help in making decisions. The path with the most peace is the best path.

Teach me how to use Your peace in my heart in making decisions. Let there be tremendous peace along the correct path and no peace on other paths. 15

We need to fill our lives and our kid's lives with God's word.

Lord, see to it that Your word richly dwells within me. Cause me to be full of wisdom, teaching and admonishing others with Your word. Fill me full of thanks to You. 16

Everything you do represents Jesus Christ, and others are watching. Giving thanks, especially in tough situations, helps convince others your Christianity is real.

Lord Jesus, cause me to live every moment for You as Your representative. Keep me giving thanks through You to my Father. 17

The Lord gives wives the grace to be in submission to their husbands. He also takes on the responsibility of putting pressure on the husband if he abuses his position.

Cause me as a Christian wife to be subject to my husband like You want me to be. 18

Jesus wants to give us His love for our wife because He knows our love is shallow and undependable.

Cause the husbands in the body to love their wives and not become bitter towards them. 19

God is pleased when children are obedient to their parents.

Work in the hearts of the children in the body so they are obedient to their parents in all things. 20

Constant nagging and correcting can discourage our kids and cause them to give up.

Keep me as a father from provoking our children so much that they give up. 21

It is easier to work hard for God since He is just and rewards us appropriately. Unlike human bosses, He knows when we are really working and when we are trying to look good.

Make sure I work hard for my employer, not just to please them, but to please You. Don't let me forget that one day I will answer to You for everything I do or say. 22,24-25

Chapter 4

Expect God to treat you like you treat those under your authority.

Cause me to treat those who work for me like You treat me. 1

There will always be things to pray for. Prayer is to be a part of every day of our lives.

Cause me to keep on praying, keep on watching for answers and keep on giving thanks. 2

The effectiveness of those going and telling is directly related to the prayer support behind them. I appreciate any prayers you have for the spread and effectiveness of these books.

Cause me to pray effectively for open doors for others. Prompt others to pray for me as You open doors for me to tell others about You. 3

We need to allow the Lord to make the best use of our limited time here on the earth.

Train me to make the most of the time I have. Make my speech full of grace and very tasty so I can answer others the way You want. 5-6

Prayer is hard work, but it is essential if the kingdom of Christ is to expand.

Keep me laboring fervently for others in my prayers so they do what You want them to do. 12

1 THESSALONIANS

Chapter 1

Thank you for your prayers for me. I hope these prayers help you in your work of faith and your labor of love.

Build in me a thankful spirit. Cause me to recognize those who bless my life and thank You for them. Give me strong prayers for them. Keep me and those around me doing the work of faith and the labor of love with a confident hope in You, Lord. 2-3

I often pray this prayer for myself.

Don't let me share the gospel in word only, but cause me to speak in power, in the Holy Spirit, and with confident assurance. Make sure I speak Your word powerfully everywhere You send me. 5,8

This is an ongoing assignment for every believer.

Use me to turn people from idols to serving You, the living and true God, so they can be saved from the wrath to come. 9-10

Chapter 2

Our focus is often more on pleasing men than pleasing God. Instead of flattery, we are to speak the truth in love and live for God's praises not men's.

Cause me to speak the gospel entrusted to me, not to please men, but to please You. Keep me from using flattering words, from being selfish and from seeking glory from men. 4-6

Like fathers, we help and encourage other believers to be all they can be spiritually.

Express Your gentle, affectionate and giving nature through me to others. Keep me holy, just and blameless in my relationships with other believers. Use me to exhort, comfort and challenge others in their Christian walk. Make my walk worthy of Your calling. 7-12

Expect God's word to work powerfully in those with whom you share.

As I speak Your word, cause it to accomplish Your desired purpose in those who hear. 13

Chapter 3

Paul was always eager to complete the process of discipling those he had led to the Lord.

Direct me to those I am to disciple and use me to build up what is lacking in their faith. 10-11

Paul's prayer for the Thessalonians was that the Lord would cause them to increase and abound in love. I have tried to use strong words like "cause, make, see to it", in these prayers you are praying.

Cause me to increase and abound in love for others. Clean up my life and get me ready for Your return. 12-13

Chapter 4

God can so change us that we live a pure life in a wicked and lustful world.

Keep me from all forms of moral impurity and teach me to live in purity and honor and not in lust. 3-5

We are called and set apart by God for a pure and holy life.

Keep me from immorality and lead me in a holy walk. 7

God often calls us to simplify our living so we can concentrate on the kingdom. Sacrifice and kingdom effort here on earth will be well rewarded throughout eternity.

Cause me to live simply, mind my own business, work hard, and relate honestly with unbelievers. 11-12

Probably in our lifetime we will hear the shout and the trumpet.

Teach me how to comfort others with words of Your return. 15-18

Chapter 5

In my early Christian life, thoughts and sermons about Jesus' return used to really worry me because my life was full of sin. When sins are confessed up to date, we can be ready and excited about Jesus coming any moment.

Keep me spiritually aware so Your return doesn't surprise me like a thief. Keep me sober and alert with my armor on, watching for Your return. 4,8

Our two major jobs are to reach the lost, and comfort and build up believers.

Use me to comfort and disciple others. 11

Our Father has placed us all under authority in the church. We need to pray for and esteem highly those over us and seek to live in peace with those around us.

Make me recognize those You have placed over me to help me grow. Give me a high esteem and love for them. Teach me how to live in peace with others. 12-13

These verses talk about proper responses to those around us.

Use me to warn the unruly, comfort the simple, support the weak and be patient toward all men. Keep me from giving back evil for evil, but instead, make sure I do that which is good for others. 14-15

People who practice these verses are a joy to be around.

Cause me to rejoice constantly, pray without ceasing and give thanks in everything. 16-18

God still speaks through His prophets to let us know what He is doing.

Lord, keep me from quenching the Spirit and ridiculing words of prophecy. 19-20

We are to hold tightly to good and to reject evil.

Lead me to check out things carefully, hold fast to that which is good and abstain from every form of evil. 21-22

God is at work in our spirit, our soul (mind, will and emotions) and our body to ready us for the return of Jesus.

Set me apart for Yourself and keep my spirit, soul and body blameless until You return. Lord, fill me with Your grace. 23,28

2 THESSALONIANS

Chapter 1

This prayer for the Thessalonians is an excellent one to pray for ourselves, our families and those around us.

Cause me to be worthy of my calling. Fulfill Your desire for me to be good. Do powerful things through me so Your name is glorified in me and me in You. 11-12

Chapter 2

Those who don't stay in a close love relationship with Jesus will probably be deceived.

Keep me close to You and don't let me be deceived about Your coming and about the antichrist. 2-3

Isn't it wonderful that our heavenly Father has chosen us before the beginning of time to know and love Him?

Thank You, Father, for choosing me from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. 13

Our God is willing to provide all the grace and power we need to stand fast and be established in His work and word.

Cause me to stand firm and hold to the truths from Your word. Comfort my heart and establish me in every good word and work. 15,17

Chapter 3

Prayer is the key to God's word spreading quickly throughout the earth.

Cause Your word to have free course and be glorified because of these prayers and deliver me from unreasonable and wicked people. 1-2

I pray and claim this verse all the time, including just now as I type. I join it with the verse from the Lord's prayer in Matthew 6 where we are taught to pray that we won't be led into temptation and would be delivered from the evil one. I don't want to give the devil any opportunity to attack me or my family.

Faithful Lord, establish me and keep me from the evil one. 3

This prayer allows God to build in us the love and trust for Him that He wants us to have.

Lord, direct my heart into the love of God and a patient trust in You. 5

We are to avoid deep friendships with carnal or phony Christians.

Keep me from deep friendships with people who do not live according to Your word. 6

Can you imagine how this verse would transform our nation if applied across the board to everyone?

Cause me to do my share of the work so You can continue to provide all the food I need. Teach the "no work, no eat" principle to our nation. 10

When we are walking in the Spirit and doing the work God has given us, we will never burn out or give up because of God's grace working powerfully through us. If we are doing our own thing, we will eventually burn out.

Keep me from growing weary of well-doing. Lord, fill me with Your peace and be very close and intimate with me. 13-16

1 TIMOTHY

Chapter 1

Ever notice all the books, software and all the emphasis on tracing genealogy? These verses tell us that genealogies have no spiritual significance. They may be interesting and ego building, but don't let them take up too much kingdom time.

Keep me from myths, genealogies and mere speculation. Cause me to instruct from a pure heart, a good conscience and a sincere faith. 3-5

Chapter 2

The Holy Spirit, through Paul, tells young pastor Timothy that the first priority of the church is prayer. Today, it seems to not be a priority at all in most churches.

Cause me, my family and the body to make entreaties, prayers and petitions for all men as You bring them to mind, especially for those in authority. 1-2

God really puts a premium on the prayers of men. When Marcia and I teach prayer seminars, we often do a practice time. When Marcia takes the women, they get right into praying with little help. The men are much harder and usually sit rather silently and pray little, I think I have discovered a few reasons why it is easy for women to pray and so hard for men. Women like details. God is willing to listen patiently while they tell Him every facet of the problem. Men see God as someone they can't boss around and that makes Him hard to talk to. Even worse, we are unable to impress Him with our stories about how great we are since He knows all about us. That really puts a crimp in our words. Besides this, He seems to always point out things in us that need fixing rather than rushing off to fix our wife and kids like we asked. In spite of all this, it is essential that men "man the front lines" of prayer. The church will start moving and growing again when the men begin to lead the way in prayer.

Work through me to get men in every place to pray, lifting up holy hands without wrath and dissension. 8

Men are visually stimulated and it is very easy to tempt and distract them through immodest dress. Attention captured through dressing indiscreetly seldom leads to a pure, godly relationship. God's help and a radiant countenance are much more likely to capture the man a woman wants.

Work through me to encourage women to dress modestly and discreetly and to do good works. 9

Chapter 3

These are requirements for leaders, but goals for every man in the church.

Cause me to be above reproach, temperate, the husband of one wife, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not addicted to much wine, not fighting but gentle, uncontentious, and free from the love of money. Cause me to manage my household well, and to keep my kids under control with all dignity. 2-4

These are more prayers that are especially for God's men.

Don't let me become conceited. Make sure I develop a good reputation outside the church. Make me a man of dignity, not double-tongued or fond of sordid gain. Cause me to always hold on to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. 6-9

For a bit of humor, I sometimes tell people that Paul was a realist. He didn't demand that the elder's wife not gossip, only that she not be a "malicious" gossip. To gossip is to share confidential information with people who are not part of the problem or the solution. We all need to be cleansed of gossip habits.

Make my wife dignified, temperate and faithful in all things and keep her from being a malicious gossip. 11

Chapter 4

If the devil can't get to the husband, he tries to destroy the wife or kids. Husbands need to provide a steady prayer covering for their families.

Never let me or my family fall away from the faith and be deceived. 1

We want God's involvement and blessing in all we do. He wants that also. As you pray these prayers from God's word, you are being nourished on the word of faith.

Teach me what it means to sanctify things by the word of God and prayer. Cause me to point out Your truth to other believers. Constantly nourish me on the word of faith. 5-6

These verses point out the folly of spending a lot of time "body building". However, we can never be too strong spiritually.

Don't let me have anything to do with worldly fables. Lead me in disciplining myself for the purpose of godliness. Fix my hope fully on You, the living God. 7,10

We should depend on our godly lives to open doors for us more than we depend on our degrees and education.

Use me in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity as a good example to others. 12

We seek to build the word into the lives of everyone we can, especially our kids.

Lead me into opportunities to publicly read scripture, and to exhort and teach. 13

The Holy Spirit wants to use us in specific ways within the body of Christ. If our gift isn't used, the whole body suffers.

Make sure I fully use the gift within me. Cause me to be conscientious in my conduct, my teaching and using my spiritual gift. 14-16

Chapter 5

We live in a generation that seems to have forgotten that the husband's primary role is provider. God is willing to equip us and open doors for us to take care of our families.

Lord, direct me in providing for my family. 8

The devil has a heyday ridiculing spiritual leaders because of the sins of a few. We need to give our leaders respect and pray for those who watch over us.

Prompt me to honor those who preach and teach. 17-19

Rebuke seems to be missing in the church today and as a result, sin is rampant. We also need to be very careful about elevating someone into a leadership position before they are spiritually ready.

Use me to rebuke those who continue in sin. Show me who to lay hands on and when to not lay hands on someone. 20,22

Chapter 6

A godly life that is content with what we have is a tremendous advantage to us and protects us from many dangers. For our eternal benefit, God encourages us to pursue godly character qualities.

Fill me with godliness and contentment. Keep me from the love of money. Cause me to pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness and to fight the good fight of faith and to take hold of eternal life. 6,11-12

Think about people you knew growing up who were generous and always ready to share. Our Father wants us to be like that in this selfish, greedy, watch out for yourself world.

Cause me to be rich in good works, generous and ready to share. Make sure I store up treasure in heaven and take hold of life indeed. 17-19

The following sounds like a selfish prayer, but it is exactly what God wants to do for us according to His word. The second half of the prayer relates to our words which we need to guard carefully.

Lord, richly supply me with all things to enjoy and teach me true enjoyment. Keep me from worldly and

empty chatter. 17,20

2 TIMOTHY

Chapter 1

God is just as interested in doing this in you as He was in Timothy. However, He waits until we ask Him.

Lord, kindle afresh Your gift in me. Put other gifts in me that I need. Take away all timidity and fill me with power, love and sound judgment. 5-6

I don't ever want to be ashamed of my relationship with Jesus Christ. I also need to understand ahead of time there is a good possibility that I will have to suffer for the gospel.

Keep me from being ashamed of Your testimony. When necessary, strengthen me to suffer for the gospel according to Your power. Make sure I fulfill Your holy calling. 8-9

After we reach age 40 or have kids, it gets harder to remember things. Whenever the Lord speaks to me through His word or others or in my spirit, I try to understand it and do it or write it down. I don't want to waste anything He says because it is so important.

Cause me to retain the sound words You have spoken to me. Guard through the Holy Spirit the treasure entrusted to me. 13-14

Chapter 2

It is God's grace and power that makes us strong. Women are easier to teach spiritual things because they are usually more spiritually responsive. However, God puts a premium on reaching men because if you reach a man you usually reach the whole family. Our discipleship work is not done until those we teach can teach others.

Father, make me strong in the grace that is in Jesus. Use me to teach faithful men all You have taught me and use them to teach others. 1-2

From 1 John 2:20,27 we understand that we have an "unction" or "anointing" from God that teaches us all things. This is the same as having understanding in everything. Let's ask God to make sure we receive ours.

Father, according to Your word, give me as a leader and us as a family, understanding in everything. 7

We do the studying and God reveals truth to us so we need not be ashamed and so we accurately handle His word.

Make me into a workman approved by You who does not need to be ashamed, and who handles accurately the word of truth. 15

Timothy evidently had a problem with his words because Paul cautioned him in several verses to watch his words. We, too, need to be very careful with our words since we hear so much junk that we are tempted to repeat.

Make sure I avoid worldly and empty chatter that leads to ungodliness and abstain from wickedness. 16,19

We need to allow the Holy Spirit to point out and remove junk from our lives.

Cleanse me from everything that keeps me from being a vessel for honor, set apart, useful to You and prepared for every good work. 21

There are things, like immorality, that we need to consistently avoid, especially if it has been a problem earlier in our life.

Cause me to flee youthful lusts and to pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace and to call on You with a

pure heart. Don't let me imagine things or be quarrelsome. Work in me to be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged and able to correct with gentleness. 22-25

Chapter 3

This verse should keep us from attending some churches that have basically ruled out the supernatural and explained away the miraculous. God hasn't run out of power and He is not stingy about using it in answer to faith-filled prayer.
Lord, cause me to avoid those who hold to a form of godliness, but deny its power. 5

As the Lord builds truth into our lives, He expects us to walk in it for the rest of our lives.
Cause me to continue in the things that I have learned of You. 14

There is tremendous power in God's word and all our teaching and instructing is to be built around God's word.
Show me how to effectively use Your word for teaching, reproof, correction and training in righteousness. Cause me to help raise up a people who are adequate and equipped for every good work. 16-17

Chapter 4

Our kingdom assignments are serious. The message we have means the difference between heaven and hell for those to whom we witness. We need to be ready and prepared.
Use me to preach the word whenever possible and to reprove, rebuke and exhort with great patience and instruction. Make me sincere and serious in all things as appropriate, enduring hardship when necessary and fulfilling my ministry. 2,5

Like Paul, we never retire from kingdom work until we are called home.
Cause me to fight a good fight, finish the course, and keep the faith. 7

It is the Lord in us who provides the strength and power to go on for the rest of our lives. He is our protector and our guarantee of eternal life in heaven forever.
Lord, stand with me and strengthen me so that I may fully proclaim Your message to all to whom You would have me speak. Deliver me from every evil deed and bring me safely to Your kingdom. 17-18

TITUS

Chapter 1

Use me to tell others about the eternal life You give.
Speak Your word through me wherever You wish. Fill me with grace, mercy and peace. 3-4

God fully expects us to be faithful to our spouses. He is willing and eager to work through us to raise godly kids.
Work in me to keep me faithful to my spouse. Work in my children so they are godly, faithful kids. 6

When our lives are cleaned up, then our words are credible to a lost world.
Don't let me be stubborn, angry, or addicted to drink, drugs or money. Make sure I hold fast to all You have taught me and that I teach what I know to others. 9

Chapter 2

This is the Lord's job description for the older more spiritually mature women.

Father, use the more spiritually mature women to teach the younger women to love their husbands and children and to be wise, pure, good homemakers and obedient to their husbands. 4-5

When we are trained and equipped, we can disciple others.

Equip me to teach others sound doctrine. Fill my life with good works, truth, sincerity, sound speech and doctrine. 1,7-8

We should put off ungodliness and worldly lusts and put on soberness, righteousness and godliness.

Ensure that I avoid ungodliness and worldly lusts. Make sure I live a serious, righteous and godly life. 12

We have more authority to teach and exhort than we normally use.

Prompt me to teach Your word, exhorting and rebuking with authority as You direct. 15

Chapter 3

The Lord cautions us about spending too much time on those who want to argue but do not want to change.

Keep me from speaking evil of others. Express Your gentleness through me. Cause me to avoid foolish questions and arguments about Your word. Keep me away from those who continually refuse to listen to Your word. 2,9-10

HEBREWS

Chapter 1

As we get to know Jesus, we are seeing and knowing the Father. Jesus is the one holding our lives together.

Make me hear the words of Your Son. Through Jesus, show me Your glory and Your person. Cause His powerful words to work out Your will in me. 2-3

I want the angels watching over me and my family to have all the power they need and permission to use it when the devil's helpers come after us.

Minister powerfully through Your angels to me and those around me who are, or will be, believers. 14

Chapter 2

We should treasure the salvation and the relationship we have with God our Father because it cost Jesus so much to buy it for us.

See to it that I really heed what I have heard from You. Keep me from letting it slip away. Keep me from neglecting so great a salvation. 1-3

I believe signs and wonders and miracles and gifts of the Holy Spirit are available today for those who ask in faith and who allow the Holy Spirit to do them how and when He wants.

Bear witness with me, both by signs and wonders and by miracles and gifts of the Holy Spirit in any way You desire. 4

After we submit, the Lord uses us to bring others into submission to himself.

Work through me, Lord, to bring all things into subjection to Yourself. 8

The devil is a totally defeated foe. However, Jesus left him in action in order to give us opportunity to grow spiritually as we resist him in faith.

Cause the devil and his power of death to be rendered more and more powerless. Deliver me completely from the fear of death. 14-15

Jesus knows how tough temptation is and is ready to come to the immediate aid of those who ask Him. In the model prayer He taught us to ask that we be kept from temptation.

Lord, come to my immediate aid when I am tempted. 18

♥ *Some years ago I (Marcia) had a growing desire to learn to play the guitar. I prayerfully asked God for a guitar along with the ability to play it. I wanted to learn to play the "new" scripture-set-to-music songs and lead people in worship.*

Not long after that, being completely broke, I was visiting in a friend's home and expressed my desire for a guitar to assist in leading others to worship. A woman I barely knew left the room and returned with a \$50 check to go toward my guitar.

Some days later in another city, my friend and I went to a pawn shop to see if it might have any good guitars. Soon after entering we realized that the only good guitar was a Yamaha priced at \$89. I offered the man \$45. He checked with his boss and said \$50. I bought the guitar for \$50 even, exactly what I had been given. As I was paying, a young man came into the shop asking for a Yamaha guitar. A few minutes later in arriving and there would not have been a good guitar to buy.

I'm not musically gifted, so even with a fine guitar to learn on, I was insecure and uncertain of my ability. I didn't have the money for lessons and failing to stick to it and teach myself, I gradually laid the guitar aside. One day in my daily reading in Luke, I read about the unfaithful, fearful servant who had been afraid and hidden the money his employer had given him. As a result, the employer took away even what he had. I felt the Lord was saying that I was like that servant. I'd asked Him for the ability to play the guitar; He'd miraculously provided, yet I was afraid. He then identified a person I was to give the guitar to - it took me 2 weeks to agree and obey Him, but finally I gave the guitar to the one the Lord had identified, telling him if he became afraid or lazy like I had, he was to pass the guitar on, because this guitar was to be used to lead people in worship. Later, he told me that very encouragement kept him diligent. Within a month or two this young man was leading a Friday night praise service of about 100 people at a local church. (Since that time, he has led thousands in worship.)

But the story doesn't end there. At times in God's wisdom, He gives us a second "chance." Little did I know that within just a few months, the man I was to marry would have the exact same model Yamaha guitar in his possession, and it would be mine to learn on. In God's economy, He maximized the lessons He taught me and doubled the number of His servants to lead others to worship Him. Besides, I didn't need two guitars anyway. ♥

Chapter 3

It is really serious business to harden our hearts to the Lord's discipline. The Christian who hardens himself becomes hard, dry and fruitless and may end up being called home sooner than expected (John 15). The lost person who hardens himself to God's call will be lost forever in a place of never ending torment.

Cause me to hear Your voice today. Don't let me harden my heart toward You. Ensure that I know Your ways and enter Your rest. 7-11

Our desire is to stay in close, loving relationship with our Father.

Keep me from having a heart of unbelief that turns away from You. 12

Sin sometimes seems too small to deal with until it is too big to get free from. We need to be accountable to others (especially men to men) so sin can be recognized, confessed and cleansed.

Encourage others day after day through me. Keep me from being hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. 13

Guard your faith.

Keep me holding on to all You have taught me all the way to the end. 14

Unbelief kept them out of the promised land and it keeps us from much that our Father wants to give us or do for us and our families and the church.

Keep me from having an evil, unbelieving heart that does not enter Your rest. 15-19

(Rest describes a life where Jesus provides the direction, the power, and the correct response to all that comes our way. We cooperate and see Jesus in action through us.)

Chapter 4

There is a place of rest in our walk with Christ. We realize that He won the victory and He lives in us to fight the battles.

Father, don't let me fall short of Your promised rest. Cause me to combine Your word with faith and enter Your rest. Keep me from trying to enter Your rest through my own fleshly efforts. 1-3,9-10

Part of growing spiritually is to learn to distinguish between soul and spirit. Almost all secular music and much so-called Christian music speaks only to the soul. We will never grow spiritually on that which speaks to the soul. We also need to remember that lost people are dead in their spirit and we can only reach them through their souls. Thus we speak to them in ways to touch their conscience and we leave out the religious jargon that only confuses them. For spiritual growth, spend much time in God's word and in prayer.

Show me clearly through Your word that which is of the soul and that which is spirit. Make me clearly see and choose that which is alive and life-giving over that which is of the flesh. Speak Your word powerfully through me to others. 12

Do you ever do things, say things, or think things that you wouldn't if Jesus were standing beside you. Guess what, He is in you and knows everything you think, say and do.

Clearly show me how visible my life is to You. 13

Because of the death of Jesus for us, we can have confident access to God's throne in prayers. Don't waste this privilege that was bought for you at so high a cost.

Cause me to come boldly to Your throne of grace. See to it that I find grace to help in time of need. 16

Chapter 5

Paul isn't saying the milk is unimportant. He is saying to learn it and move on to the meat. I think churches should have classes like "milk one" and "milk two", and then "meat one, two and three." This would give new believers a chance to make progress and not get stuck in a life of "milk" classes.

Cause me to learn the basics of the gospel and to press on to know the meat of Your word. Train my spiritual senses to discern good and evil. 12-14

Chapter 6

One reason so many Christians have never grown up is because they have heard thousands of salvation messages during their lives but have had little teaching that leads them on to maturity. Thankfully, we have organizations like Institute in Basic Life Principles (Bill Gothard), Life Action Ministries, Ambassadors for Christ and others that are bringing meat to the body of Christ. There are also some excellent Christian radio teachers like Chuck Swindoll and Charles Stanley. Finally, there are authors like Peter Wagoner and John Dawson who are opening the eyes of the church to spiritual warfare, a subject we have avoided for years. I realize in naming names I will probably leave out your favorite and mention someone you don't like. What I am really saying is: take responsibility for your spiritual growth and search out the resources that can help you grow. The hour is late and the need is urgent.

Lord, work in Your church so we press on to completeness. Keep us from preaching salvation messages over and over to those who are already Christians. 1-2

We become stagnant if we only take in and never give out. Remove unnecessary things from your life and make time available for kingdom work. The Holy Spirit uses those who are "available".

Don't let me constantly soak up good teaching and never do anything useful with it. Bring forth much fruit through my life. Use me to minister to the body of Christ. 7-8,10

Ask God to fill you with a spiritual intensity that never runs out.

Keep me from being lazy in my relationship with You. Show me those who are spiritually mature and teach me through them. 12

Let God build in you that unshakable confidence that He is in control and will take care of you.

Work in me to patiently endure until You do the things You have promised. Make my hope in You sure and steadfast. 15,19

Chapter 7

Jesus is now functioning as our intercessor in heaven. Our forever salvation is not dependent on our ability to hang on, but is assured by the prayers and power of Jesus that hold us.

Thank You for saving me forever when I came to God through You, Jesus. Thank You, Lord, for Your many intercessions for me. Cause me to ask for and receive from the Father those things that You want for me. 25

Chapter 8

God's laws are written on our hearts and so is the desire to keep His laws. The laws are summed up in loving God with all our hearts and loving our neighbor as ourselves. If we do these two things, we will never break any of God's other laws.

Put Your laws into my mind and write them upon my heart. Ensure that I know You intimately. Be merciful to me and remember my sins no more. 8-12

Chapter 9

While we were lost, we were consciously or subconsciously trying to work our way to heaven. After salvation, a lot of those old dead works hang on. We need to let the Holy Spirit point out our dead works so we can confess them and be cleansed. Then we serve in the Spirit, becoming available for all God chooses to do through us.

With Your blood, cleanse my conscience from dead works to serve You, the living God. 14

Chapter 10

Dressed in the righteousness of Jesus (1 Cor 1:30) and washed in His blood, we confidently come to God in prayer.

Father, make sure I confidently enter Your holy presence because of the blood of Jesus. 19

When we come to God in prayer, He doesn't condemn us or reject us. He does often point out sin in our lives that needs to be confessed and washed away. Knowing that Jesus is totally faithful, we never lose confidence in Him.

Draw me near with a true heart in full assurance of faith. Wash my heart clean from evil thoughts and ideas. See to it that I hold fast the confession of my faith without wavering. 22-23

Jesus sent them out in pairs so they could encourage each other. We need to have those who encourage us and those whom we "stir up to love and good works."

Teach me how to stir up others so they express love and do good works. 24

We need those we can trust and with whom we can be open and honest. As the end draws near, we will need them more than ever.

Draw me into deep fellowship with other believers. Cause us to encourage each other more and more as Your return gets closer. 25

Imagine with me a scene in heaven. A lost person is at the throne of judgment talking about all his good works. The

Father is saying in a voice like thunder, "My Son died for you and I punished Him for your sins so He could give you salvation as a free gift! You refused the free gift and you show Me these puny, filthy works! Away from here into the eternal punishment you fully deserve for trampling underfoot the death of my Son!" That same death bought us the privilege of prayer, let's not waste it.

Keep me from ignoring or neglecting the privileges You bought for me through Your shed blood. 29

When the Spirit teaches us something, the devil comes to try and take it away. The battle either makes the truth ours for life or shows that we didn't really learn it and need to be taught again. Expect the "pop quizzes" throughout life.

Cause me to pass the test that comes after I learn a new truth. 32

Nothing we have here compares with the treasure we will have in heaven.

Show me how to help Christians who are being persecuted. Cause me to joyfully accept losses knowing I have the greatest treasure: You. 34

Just decide that "come hell or high water," whether you understand what is happening or not, that you are going to keep on trusting in Jesus until the end.

Keep me from tossing away my confidence in You. Make sure I do everything You want and receive all You have promised to give. 35-36

True believers are not those who turn back.

Thank You for causing me to live by faith and ensuring I never turn back to destruction. 38-39

Chapter 11

Real faith turns into substance and evidence.

Build in me the kind of faith that You can turn into substance and undeniable evidence. 1

There are lots of things God wants for our families and our nation, but He is waiting for someone to ask in faith believing.

Give me faith for kingdom things that You want to bring into existence. 3

The only way to stay in close relationship with God is to believe Him.

Bring forth in me the faith that pleases You. Teach me to believe that You are everything I need and that You reward those who seek You. 6

Chapter 12

What trips you up? Lay it aside. Get someone to pray with you about it if necessary. Of course, this laying aside doesn't apply to getting rid of a cantankerous husband or a complaining wife.

Cause me to lay aside every weight and the sin which so easily trips me. See to it that I run with patience the race You have set before me. 1

Jesus started the process in you and He is going to finish it. Keep your focus on Him. He went through a lot for you, so don't ever give up and quit.

Fix my eyes on You, Jesus, the author and finisher of my faith. Lord, prompt me to consider what You endured for me so I will not be wearied and faint. 2-3

The surest sign that someone is a Christian is if God disciplines them when they sin.

Keep me from despising Your discipline or giving up when You correct me. Cause me to accept Your chastening. Mature me through it and develop the fruit of righteousness in my life. 5-11

Hands lifted up in praise aren't limp. Knees bent in prayer aren't feeble. God has plans to heal our wounded areas.
Strengthen my limp hands and feeble knees. Cause me to walk carefully in Your path so my weak areas are healed. 13

Blessed are the pure in heart (holy) for they shall see God (Matt 5:8). Pursue purity and holiness.
See to it that I seek after peace with all men. Ensure that I find that holiness that allows me to see You. 14

When we are offended, God gives us the grace to forgive. Refusing to forgive leads to a root of bitterness which will defile those around us.

Make sure I do not miss Your grace. Keep any root of bitterness from springing up in me so I won't be troubled and defile many others. 15

Our kids seem to know how far they can stall mom or dad before the tone of the parent's voice indicates it is time to obey. Don't try this with God. He expects action when He speaks and His discipline is sure, swift and good.

Keep me from ever refusing to hear and obey You. 25

Proverbs 10:30 tells us the righteous will never be removed. The goal is for God's people to be rock steady while everything around them is shaking. Then people turn to us for help and we can introduce them to Jesus.

Come shake and remove those things which can be shaken so that Your kingdom which cannot be shaken may remain. Teach me to be extremely thankful for the kingdom I have received. 27-28

Chapter 13

God's love never wears out.

Give me Your deep and lasting love for other believers. 1

Won't it be exciting to review the records in heaven and see when angels came by and we didn't realize it? God is doing some tremendous things in the prisons through Prison Fellowship and others. Has He been stirring a desire in you to help in jails or prisons?

See to it that I help strangers when You prompt me to. Teach me to take care of those who are in jail and are mistreated and hurting. 2-3

One wife for life, working through trouble and strife,
With God's love you can, it's part of His plan,
To give all the love you will need.

Cause me to love and remain faithful to my marriage partner. 4

God is setting us free and keeping us free from the love of money.

Keep me from coveting what others have and make me content with what I have. 5

Jesus is our life (Col 3:4) and He is constantly at work in and through us. We are to fear God, not man.

Ensure I know and boldly say that You are my helper. Don't let me fear what man can do to me. 6

Today's new religions are simply old "works based" religions or "man is god" religions with a new name. Trusting Jesus alone for salvation is still the only way to God (John 14:6).

Keep me from being carried away by new and strange ideas. Keep me locked in to salvation by grace alone. 9

The Air Force used to send me "TDY" or temporary duty. While I was TDY, I wasn't home and I knew it was only

for a short time. We are only TDY here on earth for a short time and then we go home.

Make sure I understand that life here is temporary and that I will be rejected by many. Keep me seeking eternal things. 13-14

Praise and thanks are always appropriate.

See to it that I continually praise You and give thanks to Your name. 15

The opportunities to do good and share don't usually come when it is convenient. Usually there is an element of sacrifice.

Cause me to do good and give to others. 16

We have tremendous protection under our divinely appointed authorities. If we are being strongly tempted, we should pray for those in authority over us.

Teach me to obey my spiritual authorities and submit to those who have watch over my soul. Cause them to care for me joyfully. Prompt me to pray for those over me so they will do right in all things. 17-18

The God of peace who brought our Great Shepherd back to life is working on us and in us to glorify His Son, Jesus Christ.

Father, train me in every good work to do Your will. Work in me that which is pleasing in Your sight. Cause me to glorify Jesus Christ forever. 21