

A Prayer Called "The Prayer of Faith"

By: Phillip Hayes

"And the prayer of faith shall save the sick . . ." James 5:15

Many times I have went to prayer only to find that the heavens seemed to be brass and it was as if I was talking to myself. Sometimes it was so hard to pray that I would quit praying. Then there were times I would keep praying and I would get a breakthrough and felt that God was at least hearing me. I am sure you have probably experienced this.

The most blessed time of prayer is when you begin praying and it feels as if you have entered heaven itself. It is so easy you don't want to quit praying. I have heard this called *a spirit of prayer*.

Some of the most blessed times in prayer I have experienced is when I am alone in my vehicle. I am sure when people see me at traffic lights or when they pass by me probably think I am a mental case. There I am, my hand and sometimes both hands lifted to heaven, my mouth moving constantly talking with no one else in the vehicle. Yea, "there's a nut" they probably say!

Of course there are other prayers such as a formal or dedication prayer. It may be a well thought out prayer for a wedding, or funeral or to dedicate a baby; a building, etc.. Prayers are given at some sporting events and even governmental meetings. Many church services are opened with this kind of prayer. There are many forms of prayer.

You may, or may not have experienced this *spirit of prayer* I mentioned. I am sure many of you have. I have experienced it many times and it is glorious.

If you are honest, you would admit that most times when you go to prayer, the heavens are brass. When this happens you probably start talking to the devil, telling him how horrible he is and to get out of your way.

Most Christians think this way and they get this from the book of Daniel: *"Then said he unto me, Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words. But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia."* [Daniel 10:12-13] They believe this *prince of the kingdom of Persia* was Satan and the devil stopped the angel of God from answering Daniels prayer for twenty one days. But Michael (who they say is God's Arc Angel came and helped him. Well, if the prince of Persia was the devil, wonder who those kings of Persia were that this angel remained with??

Now, I am not trying to mess with anyone's theology here. I am just saying, you can interpret this passage of scripture different ways.

Now, for arguments sake, let's say this prince of Persia was the devil and that he did hinder Daniel's prayer from being answered for twenty one days although God heard the prayer the very same day.

Considering this, these questions come to my mind: If Satan could hinder God's answer to His prophet, could Satan also have hindered our Lord's prayers, and is it possible for the devil to hinder a born again Christian's prayers the same way?

The answer to the first question is no he could not. It wasn't the devil that hindered Jesus! It was the unbelief in

the people! That's right! Unbelief! *"And he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief." [Matthew 13:58]* It was also unbelief that hindered the disciples prayers. *"Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out? And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you."* [Matthew 17:19-20]

Jesus manifested absolute power over the devil! *"And they were all amazed, and spake among themselves, saying, What a word is this! for with authority and power he commandeth the unclean spirits, and they come out."* [Luke 4:36] He cast them out! Not only did He cast them out, He gave us the same power! (See Luke 9:1; 10:1)

There should be no question in a Christians mind that we enjoy a much better relationship with God than the Old Testament saints. We are washed in the Blood of the Lamb and have been born again and baptized with the Holy Ghost and fire. God now lives in us, not way off beyond the planet Pluto.

Not only that, but the Holy Ghost that abides in us actually prays for us when we don't know what to pray for! *"Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God."* [Romans 8:26-27]

This is powerful! The Holy Ghost prays for you! The Spirit is praying according to the will of God for you. This is a powerful revelation! We have all the help we need to enjoy a blessed, prosperous and healthy life while on this

earth. Just knowing that God has given us the Spirit to empower us, lead us, guide us, show us things to come and actually pray for us should thrill every believer.

This makes me want to shout! Not only am I praying, but the Holy Ghost that is in me is also praying to the Father for me.

I have not found one single scripture other than the one in Daniel we discussed that even hints that Satan can hinder our prayers from being answered. Not one!

"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." [Ephesians 6:12] I know we have an adversary. I know he is the god of this world. I know there is spiritual wickedness in high places. I know we are in a warfare. Yes, I know all these things!

God has not left us powerless against the enemy! *"Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God." [Ephesians 6:13-17]*

Praise God! We have mighty weapons to defeat every foe. *"For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds." [2Corinthians 10:4]*

Too many times Christians give excuses as to why they are living defeated lives. "The devil made me do it." "The devil stole my victory." "The devil stole my finances." Let me tell you my friend, the devil is not your problem, you are your problem!

You have every weapon necessary, and all of God's protection to win the battle! You are without excuse!

I have heard unbelief called a demon spirit. There is no scripture for that. Unbelief is not a spirit. Unbelief is the product of a carnal mind.

In most cases unbelief is what hinders your prayers from being answered. Of course, they may not be answered because you are praying for something that is not in God's will. *"Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts."* [James 4:3] This verse speaks volumes to the praying person. It not only informs us why we don't receive, it also lets us know why we should expect to receive.

My prayers are always for God's will to be done in my life. If I am not sure what I am praying for is in His perfect will, I won't pray for it. But I will pray for His will to be done concerning whatever it is. If I know His will for something, I will pray believing it will happen.

So far we see that unbelief will hinder or stop your prayers from being answered. Also there is the obvious, what you are praying for is not in God's will.

Here is another scripture I want to share with you concerning hindrances to prayer. *"Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered."* [1Peter 3:7]

"That your prayers be not hindered!" In the first several verses of this chapter Peter is instructing Christian wives how they should treat their husbands. He tells them to be subject to their own husbands. He emphasizes dressing the inward rather than the outward; having a meek and quiet spirit which in the sight of God is a great price. Then he makes the statement we find in verse three, *"Likewise, ye husbands"*.

Live with them according to knowledge, give honor to the wife because they are heirs with you of grace. He is saying, for the Christian husband to treat his wife as an equal in Christ. This way, your prayers will not be hindered. There will be no divisions in your prayer life, as you will be praying for the same things!

Can you imagine a husband and wife praying to God for opposite things? This should never be the case! They are not only one in marriage, they are one with God. However, when the husband treats his wife like a second class citizen or as a slave, he forgets she has the same promises, authority and power in spiritual matters as he does.

"For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil." [1Peter 3:12] Peter reminds the church in verse twelve that God is observing the righteous and His ears are open to their prayers, but if they are doing evil, He is against them. You may not have realized it but when you mistreat others, God considers it to be evil. Your prayers will surely be hindered.

Have you ever thought about examining yourself *before* you go to prayer? If *"the face of the Lord is against them that do evil"* shouldn't we be sure we have not sinned against God or any person before we pray? I think we should, and if we find we have sinned, we should first ask God to forgive us of our sin before we make our request known to God!

Jesus said, ". . . . *Whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.*" [Matthew 11:23]

What a powerful statement! I know you are familiar with this verse. Jesus plainly tells us (*we are a whosoever*)

if we will only believe and not doubt in our heart, we can have whatsoever we speak. That is the truth! I can believe it, speak it and receive it! Jesus is talking about how to receive when you pray.

I am sure there is someone reading this that might say, "I have spoken many things and haven't received anything I have said." Yes, we all have. You see there is a condition to this statement Jesus gave.

Jesus continues and gives us a clear understanding how we can have a successful prayer life, *"Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them. [Matthew 11:24]* Again, the Lord is very clear, if you believe what you are praying for, you will have them.

Now here is His condition: *"And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses."* [Matthew 11:24-26]

Peter was telling us the same thing! God's face is against those that do evil, but His eyes are over the righteous and His ears are open to their prayers.

Thus far we have discussed many things that hinder prayer and they are all related to the condition of man, not the devil.

I am convinced there is "A Prayer of Faith" that cannot fail. This prayer will heal the sick and cast the devil out!

The Bible does not say that God has given us a measure of faith. We have all been given the same measure of faith. *"For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according*

as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith."
[Romans 12:3]

This measure of faith we have is sufficient to heal the sick, cast the devil out, and move mountains if necessary. We all possess this faith!

Your prayer (what you say) activates this faith. *"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."* [Hebrews 11:1] Faith is substance (Support, Assurance, Confidence). Faith is evidence (Proof). So faith is the evidence of what was spoken or prayed for.

Faith empowers us to believe and trust God when everything is falling apart around us. I can be sick, discouraged, depressed and broke; and still have faith in God. I can still believe God has saved me! However, I believe God wants us to use the faith He has given us to accomplish much, much, more.

The abundant life Jesus promised is available to all of us, but it is only lived through faith. Before the Cross, the prophet said, *"By his stripes you are healed"* (Isaiah 53:5). After the Cross, Apostle Peter said, *"By His stripes, ye were healed."* (1Peter 2:24) Spiritual and physical healing were paid for by the atonement. You were healed. Past tense!

When sickness or disease attacks your body, someone must pray "The Prayer of Faith" in order for the promise given in God's Word to be effective. In other words, "The Prayer of Faith" is believing God's Word!

I have heard many people pray for various things. Most times the prayer is formal and dead sounding. I have actually heard ministers pray, "Lord if it's your will, heal this brother" That is not a "Prayer of Faith"! The Prayer of Faith must be prayed with the foregone conclusion that God not only can, but will heal the sick. The "Prayer of Faith" will save the sick! It cannot fail!

I personally do not believe it is ever God's will for any of His children to be sick. Most sickness and disease comes

from the devil, not God! You can also become sick and diseased by committing sin, not eating properly, or allowing stress to overcome you, etc. Either way, sickness does not come from God.

Do you realize the Word of God says that sickness is a curse! (See Deuteronomy 28). You should refuse to live under a curse! I believe it is always God's will to heal! I know that is a bold statement and many of you will disagree with me, but nevertheless I believe God's Word bears me out.

Psa 107:20 He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions.

Mat 12:15 But when Jesus knew it, he withdrew himself from thence: and great multitudes followed him, and he healed them all.

Mat 8:16 When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick.

Luk 6:19 And the whole multitude sought to touch him: for there went virtue out of him, and healed them all.

Act 5:16 There came also a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed every one. Notice in most of these verses, they were all healed!

God is not a respecter of persons, if he healed one, he will heal all! The problem with most Christians is they tolerate sickness. If God's people would hate sickness and disease as much as they hate sin, healing would explode in churches throughout the world, and hospitals would be emptied out!

As stated before, healing is promised in the atonement. Physical healing is as much a part of the Gospel of the Kingdom as salvation is. Everywhere the kingdom was preached, the sick were healed!

In Matthew chapter fifteen Jesus indicated that healing and deliverance belonged to the children of God; it is the children's bread.

According to Apostle Paul, ". . . All the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us." [2Corinthians 1:20] Notice it says, "All the promises of God in Him is yes"! God's answer to "The Prayer of Faith" is "Yes"!

I sincerely hope and pray that you can see there is a prayer called "The Prayer of Faith" that must be prayed if we are to see the sick healed.

"Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." [James 5:14-16] It does not say the prayer of faith might or could save the sick. God's Word states boldly, "The Prayer of Faith" shall save the sick!

How can anyone read this passage of scripture in the New Testament and teach that God no longer heals? It is sad, but there are whole Christian denominations that teach this. Although there are millions of born again, Holy Ghost filled men and women that believe God can heal, there is only a handful that will dare to believe that GOD WILL HEAL!

Do you believe God still heals? I said that I believed it was always God's will to heal and I gave you a few scriptures to prove this. In closing, let me give you one more: *"Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth."* [3 John 2] It is obvious, you cannot be sick and in health at the same time! Believe God's Word.

Be Healed in Jesus Name!

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