

Discovering the Secret Place of Prayer

Danny L. Williams –Started May 8, 2007

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Quote by James Montgomery Boice ~ from The Sermon on the Mount by R. Kent Hughes
CB distributors

~ Dedication ~

I would like to dedicate this book to my loving mother, Mrs. Shirley D. Williams, who went home to be with the Lord on Easter Sunday night 2002. I want to make this dedication to her awesome legacy that she left behind.

She has made an eternal impact on not only my life, but also the lives of everyone she met. The picture of the Prov. 31 woman was made flesh and lived in my sweet mother. It was my mother who taught me the scriptures, taught me to pray, taught me to love and trust in Jesus. From a child, She would spend endless nights in prayer and in the scriptures. She loved the Psalms. If you ever had a conversation with her you would soon find out about her passion. She would always, quote me a scripture before I would leave or hang up the phone. Her truest passion was for her family and friends, but I have never and may never again meet anyone with as deep of love for Jesus. The last thing I saw her write in her bible was, “no one cared for me like Jesus.”

To mention the name Jesus, or to speak of his love would turn on the tenderness of her spirit, followed immediately by her sweet tears. Her life was that of an everyday example of Christ love and forgiveness to me, my older brother Dennis and My Sister Melisa.

I can still hear her sweet soft voice telling me Baby, remember “You can do all things through Christ” and that God can do it in me. She would spend hours telling me of my destiny and the purpose God had for me. Lastly, I remember the warmth of her touch. My mother had the most incredible way of making anyone feel like; they were the most important person in the world. Also, Her hands were soft and caring. Its funny to remember her hands now, because I see the same caring hands and passionate spirit in my youngest daughter Kylie. Thanks mom for loving me and showing me Jesus. I will see you soon! I love and miss you.

Your Baby,

Danny Lyn

~ Acknowledgements ~

First of all, I would like to thank God, my heavenly Father, who gave me this book. To My Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, for saving me. I love you endlessly. The Lord of my life.

To my precious wife and first lady Cheryl, you are truly my destiny and my very best friend. I thank God everyday for allowing me to love and serve you all my days. Your dedication for our children, and me has demonstrated the true measure of intimacy and sacrifice. You are the reason I still believe “**the dream is real**”. I love you.

To my three angels on earth,

My oldest daughters, Kelsey, a true servants heart, God has blessed me with your incredible presence. I have never met someone so humble and precious. May God fulfill all your hopes and dreams.

My adopted baby girl Abby (pie), you are my light and joy, you have taught me more about God’s unconditional love than anyone I have ever known. I am honored that you call me Daddy. I know God has great things for your life. May Gods face shine through you all the days of your life.

Lastly my baby Kylie, my preacher girl! You could light up a dark room with only your presence. You have shown me God’s faithfulness and compassion. My heart is filled with pure joy and laughter every time I see your beautiful Face. May the fire of God’s holy anointing come and rest in your spirit. May the gospel be preached, the sick be healed and the blind made to see. I love all of you with my whole heart. ~ Daddy

Thanks also to my Dad, Billy C. Williams, I love you Dad, you have been a shoulder of strength and a true model of Christ in my life and your kindness goes without words, your anointing with passion.

Thanks to you, Eric Jeffries, I’m honored to call my brother, my friend and my student. You are a true humbled man of God. Thanks for your continued encouragement and support.

My Spiritual Father, Elwyn N. Johnston, your passion lights many who see you, thanks for the years and the triumph over the tears.

Thanks to, Bishop TD Jakes, My long distance daddy, a modern day Paul, May God forever bless you.

~ Introduction ~

I first received this word from the Lord during a time when I was walking through some really hard times. Literally the valley of the shadow of Death. This book comes right on the heels of one of the most amazing miracles; times of trial and prayer I have ever known.

What God began to show me, was so awesome I could barely sleep for nights on end. Up late and up early, a drawing, not for entertainment or mindless activity but the Living presence of God himself.

I began to feel again what I felt ten years earlier, a true Passion for God's presence. A raging fire for God to touch me, speak to me and use me.

I felt that I have always had a passion for prayer, from a child into adulthood. Some times neglected but still honored.

I really thought I knew "how to pray" and "what to pray". I was sure I could even teach prayer. I mean it seemed easy for me, but that my friend, is one of the many tricks of the enemy. Making us believe that prayer is just a few words of religious activity that God has to respond to.

Prayer for most is just a religious activity. That usually occurs prior to a church service, a meal and sometime before bed. If things are troubling in ones life, or if trials hit hard enough we all rush to prayer. Like an emergency 911 number we call out to God in the times of trouble. In most cases a method of asking God, to do, what ever we ask, whenever ask him.

This misconception of prayer has plagued the body of Christ for generations. And has in large part been completely misunderstood.

My wife, Cheryl tells of her Great Aunt Linda, teaching her as a child, God's phone number.

Jeremiah 33:3 Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not KJV

The first time she told me about it, I laughed, but inside wondering if I knew God's phone number. When she was not watching I ran to look it up.

Like my wife's childhood teacher, my mom would teach me to pray. Before meals or bedtime mostly, she would gently whisper in my ear what to say. My thoughts racing so fast I could hardly contain my excitement in the faith that I was talking to God.

She often would demonstrate a sweet prayer for my peace in a late night thunderstorm or for a bleeding cut that would run down my battered knee. All were great and memorable times, however it was just what she said in prayer, But how she said it, that I learned to pray.

I can remember like it just happened, hearing my sweet little mother in her room calling out to God. It was unlike anything I had ever heard before. It was powerful and loud, sometimes it seemed violent. I could hear her talking to God, but then she would make an all out assault on the devil. Believe me when I tell you :It was warfare that she was doing. I remember hiding around he corner listening when she would say, Oh Jesus, Jesus I love you, Bless my babies, watch over them etc etc, and Bang, she would scream out “Satan you are a liar and a thief” and with holy intent would scare him right out of there, and it would send me running furiously to my room, in fear that God would tell her I was at the door listening.

What I didn’t realize till much later in my Christian walk was, that she had made and awesome discovery. She had found that secret place of prayer. A place where humanity meets divinity, a place where Gods power meets mans passion. As I think back to my mother, and I thank God, that I was exposed to not a prayer warrior, but a prayer General.

In the times and world we live in, It seemed in some way, that we have lost that kind of passion, a passion for the secret place in prayer. And quite possibly replaced we have replaced our passion for God presence, for the presence and pleasure of people.

Prayer as it seems has died out of the church, a lost art.

Now, don’t get me wrong, we still have prayer, but not the art of prayer. We will deal with the art of prayer in a later chapter. But we have fancy religious words, but that’s not prayer. It is simply a substitution for intimacy with God, a strange fire. Like a foreign language that now one understands, but everyone speaks.

That is PRAYER for most believers, form with no power. Even teaching on prayer doesn’t change much except, the skill of words, or the elegances in speaking or some new elaborate arrangement to try for that week. “That is their version of prayer.”

Excuse me for a moment, but how boring, stiff, cold and lifeless is that? But for most that’s it. No wonder that art has died out, no price is being paid for its benefits. It is our 5 or so minutes to resound a ritualistic assault of empty meaningless words, to an awesome eternal but in most cases, an unfamiliar God.

The late ***James Montgomery Boice***, a pastor of a very large optimistic conservative style church, once shocked his congregation with these words.

“I believe that not one prayer in a hundred of those that fill our churches on Sunday morning is actually made to Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. They are made to men or to the praying one himself, and that includes the prayers of preachers as well as those of the members of the congregation.

Shocking as it might have been “He’s was right”. Jesus himself 2000 years ago expressed this in Matthew’s Gospel

Matthew 6:5 And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites [are]: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. KJV

So if prayer is so important, why do so many get it wrong?

This dilemma of constant disappointment and discouragement in my own prayer life prompted this same eternal Question.

Not just, what is Prayer? I know what it is, I mean I went to Sunday school; I even went to Bible College. I’m a pastor, I pray five times a day for thirty minutes each. I think I know how to do it.

Ladies and gentlemen, may I now introduce to you, “my pride filled resume of God “ I know it all and can do it all”. Sound familiar? Jesus described this pastor two thousand years ago in the verse we just read, hypocrites.

The men knew what to say, I have no doubt, nor did Jesus. But more importantly, it was a question of how you say and where they said it and why.

Which demands the obvious questions of where do we pray? In a closet a room or a rooftop what are the secrets words of prayer? Who then can pray? *Better yet, who then is praying effectively?*

Questions: like these, have been asked by men and women through out our entire history. Sounding back to this very passage the disciples themselves, and further still to Fall of Mankind (Adam and Eve).

What then is prayer?

Lets discover it together .

Chapter 1

The ABC's of Prayer

Matthew 6:1-8

But you, when you pray, enter into your closet, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father, which is in secret; and your Father which sees in secret shall reward you openly. ~ Matthew 6:6

Prayer is an Intimate search and discovery for God almighty. Let me say it again, an Intimate search. God wants you to search for him intimately. Like a precious gem, that is yet to be discovered.

You need to understand that about God

God is a very intimate and secretive creator.

He has been described as being hidden and mysterious. His holiness, as awe inspiring and marvelous. His presence, as numbing and yet irresistibly extravagant.

My vocabulary is far too limited; in fact, words cannot describe the search for the Eternal.

If I were to try and explain the framework of prayer I would begin like this!

Prayer is intimacy, broken down, “in to me see”, God see into me and let me see into you. What does God see?

If prayer is not intimate, maybe it is because of what we see or don't see.

A Spiritual perception of God. How do you see God?

Not naturally but spiritually! Is it secretive, and it is personal?

Listen to me for a moment; prayer is man's intimate, and personal **access** to the Living God.

Let me put it into an acrostic to explain further. The primary keys of prayer are known as the ABC's of Prayer

The First key is,

Access to God What is access?

I like Webster's definition,
Access is

- The right to enter
- The right to obtain or make use of or take advantage of something (as services or membership)
- A way of entering
- A code (a series of characters or digits) that must be entered in some way (typed or dialed or spoken) to get the use of something (a telephone line or a computer or a local area network etc.

Did you hear that? Access is a right to enter. I like to say that prayer is access to enter into God's secret place. A door, (entry) It's not the door, but access to the door.

Like a computer Icon, click on an icon to access another dimension. A window. Prayer is not the window but access to the window. Webster said a code even. We will talk about the code in a later chapter. Prayer is Access to God himself. Wow! Isn't that just mind-boggling? Just think about it, that I could have an audience with God.

The thought alone makes me want to pray!
Now that we have access to God, we go to the second key dimension into

Believe that God will Answer

Hear me good! You and I must believe that God Almighty will answer. Think about it, if I have access and I'm in his presence, surely he will answer me.

You can't doubt that. If you do, you will stop praying. You must expect God to answer. But let me warn you a moment. This is not the land of manipulation and witchcraft.

There's only one kind of prayer that God answers: **the prayer of faith.**
Mark 9:29 says *"According to your faith, it will be done unto you."*

What is faith? Is faith believing that God can do it? Saying

‘I believe God can do it!’ **That's not faith. When you believe God can do it, that's just a fact.** God can do it whether you believe it or not.

"I believe God might do it." That's not faith either. That's hope. You hope He might. "I believe God will do it." That's faith. Not believing God can do it, not believing God might do it, but believing **God will do it.** That is the prayer of faith.

The last key is

Communication with God

Communication with God, straightforward and simple right? If so why is it so difficult? Let me help with that question. Prayer is, you talking to God, Him listening and him speaking to answering you. Wow! What a concept. However, that is just it, most people do not even realize that God wants to speak with them. They have not even imagined that God even wants to. For the rest of us who are so busy, that is where we stop. We say a quick prayer “ Thank you God for this day, I pray for my wife, kids and car. God, bless me again tomorrow in Jesus name Amen. That’s it. Good night

That is not prayer my friend! That is what Jesus called in Matthew Chapter 6 Vain repetition.

Matthew 6:7 But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen [do]: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. KJV

What is vain repetition? It is when your head engages without your heart. Breakfast prayer, Routine prayer that has been recited and remembered.

The problem is even if you meant it that was still only half prayer. What do I mean? I mean God didn’t get an opportunity to speak to you in return.

But thousands and thousands do it every single day, over and over and over. It is, no wonder people do not get anything out of prayer, because that is not prayer either

One of the greatest discoveries you will make about yourself in prayer is, not that my prayers are not being answered, but that they could possibly not even be heard!

Shocking~

God has established a five-fold foundation for what we will call the “process of prayer.” And make no mistake, prayer has been defined and sometimes founded on a process. However, the process of prayer was never meant to be mistaken for the purpose of prayer. More people in our nation, our universities, our seminaries, our churches & homes have in some way sanctified the process of prayer more than the person of prayer.

The process of prayer involves five key and critical components:

1. The motive of prayer –
2. The message of prayer –
3. The ministry of prayer –
4. The method of prayer –
5. The model of prayer –

Prayer is always seen in two dimensions, our perspective & God’s perspective. God is and has always been ready for the intimate encounter of prayer. However, the limitations of man in his process to seek after God usually fall short at the motive of prayer.

In fact, if God were to give us His own checklist, I truly believe that motive would be the thermostat for everything that is done in the kingdom. It is in prayer that God will ask the question beyond what you have to say and start with, why are you here?

Motive is the measured intent of the heart of man. It is what God uses to measure authenticity.

It is our motives that will determine our true passion or pride of prayer duty.

Prayer is when your passion meets God’s power. Prayer is an intimate exchange that is formulated by divine connection of God’s power for our passion. The most awesome realization that I have found is that God wants my passion and I need His power.

Intimate prayer is maintaining your intimacy with God, not just talking to God, that’s the outer court. If you will remember in the Old Testament when God began to establish His relationship with man, he told Moses to build for Him a tabernacle where He said, “I will meet you here.” Talking with God is like the tabernacle outer court, this is the place where you come and prayer is a sacrifice. This is natural prayer; this is the place where I have to die to my motives, my needs, my intentions and myself. But God wants us to move beyond into the inner court of prayer where we feel His presence. But don’t stop there; we go into the third dimension, the Holy of Holies, the secret place of prayer.

The three steps for Moses were:

1. The burning bush – talking with God
2. In the mountain – feeling God’s presence
3. When Moses said “Let me see Your glory”

My burning bush

I had a dream one night in May 2007, I was awoken about my healing,

I can't remember everything the Holy Spirit said, but this is most of it..

Faith for my healing came, by me not allowing the doctors report or his words to not have **influence** or control over what I believed God said about me. My inward conviction was stronger than the outward influence.

I just simply didn’t believe it. I knew it, but refused to believe it.

My faith activated a spiritual law that denied the natural fact.

The fact is what the doctor said; the faith is what God said.

You will have the one you believe most. The facts or faith