



**AUGUST CHALLENGE**

## *Praying With God*

### DAY 1: *Crafted Prayer*

Welcome to our challenge on Crafted Prayer. Prayer is one of the great benefits of life as a New Creation in Christ.

Everything we say is on the following transcript. No need to write ANYTHING! Sit back, relax and listen with your heart.

#### *Message*

In 2003, I wrote a book called *Crafted Prayer* after I had a series of encounters with God in life that taught me to understand and experience prayer from the place of Inheritance in Jesus.

I realized that practicing living as a new creation in Christ brought me into the place of unique privilege because of the truth that Jesus actually lived in me, which meant I lived in the place of His inheritance in the Father!

We can only pray effectively from the position of being the Beloved, in Jesus. As He

#### *Notes*

is, so are we. Christ lives in me and I am learning how to live in Him, with Him.

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**KEY #1**

***We have an Inheritance in Jesus that impacts on everything in life.***

Our starting place for prayer as part of our inheritance is Romans 8:17:

*"Because we are His offspring, we qualify to be heirs; God Himself is our portion, we co-inherit with Christ. Since we were represented and included in His suffering, we equally participate in the glory of His Resurrection." (Mirror Bible)*

In Colossians 1:12 we see this expressed as a thankful response to God, "giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the saints in the light."

Your inheritance in Christ has HUGE benefits that work all across your life, like an earthly inheritance. God wants us to experience the ongoing value of being joint heirs with Jesus, as we walk through life.

We are going to be learning how important your inheritance in Jesus is to the Father. All the keys, Promises, Scriptures, Prophecy, Crafted prayers and thankful responses became a major point of our agreement in trust with the father.

The massive benefit of inheritance prayer is the delight we have in praying with God

rather than just towards him! This is so beautiful!

In the old covenant, people had to go through a mediary... a priest or prophet to hear the word of the Lord. They had to journey to a Temple to be in His Presence. Now, in the new covenant, the temple is Christ in you! So you are constantly exposed to the Redeemer's fellowship with the Creator and the Helper/Comforter!

We are learning to see prayer from the new man perspective...which is a divine advantage.

Here is a list of Inheritance benefits in Jesus:

- The New man is absolutely convinced that God is always present because He put Jesus into us as an inheritance in this world!

You are always accepted in the Beloved, so Father loves that interaction with you in prayers.

- The pleasure of praying with God is that we can constantly experience the delight in His empowering presence.

This Beautiful connection with God in prayer will eliminate any negative thought or emotion by empowering us to experience the joy and peace in believing.

- You are in partnership with the best prayer team ever!

- Your reality is that Jesus ever lives to make intercession for you [Hebrews 7:25] that can also be used by you.

Which is why we write crafted prayers, because Jesus taught as one of His own crafted prayers in Matthew 6:8-13, known as the Lord's prayer.

Also His prayer in John 17, especially verses 20-26.

- Also, the Holy spirit is your helper and teacher in life and prayer. His prayers in, and with you, are so wonderfully in line with the will of God. Romans 8:27
- Another astonishing benefit of praying with The Comforter in that if life events are causing stress, anxiety or fear it is the role of the Spirit to empower you to relax in rest so that the peace of God enables you to pray in line with His heart and will.
- Confidence rises because Jesus and the Holy Spirit are permanent residents in you...so together you are part of a three fold cord of prayer!

This is why prayer takes place in an atmosphere of rejoicing and thanksgiving. What we learn in praying with God is, the realities of the new man in Christ are greater than any situation that we face.

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks, for this is God's will

for you in Christ Jesus." (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

I think "pray without ceasing" means that when you have the understanding of what Jesus and the Spirit are praying....then write it down and pray it as long as the circumstances last. I call them P.U.S.H prayers = Pray Until Something Happens.

I also like the idea of pushing the enemy around as I am praying with God. And, I love pushing any negative thoughts and emotions out of my inner space with God! I choose to live life overwhelmed by God's goodness and grace...so I practice joy and peace in believing, in line with God's Nature.

I do not want to be overwhelmed by anything else! When you pray from your old man all the fear, stress etc. are present. So, we only pray in line with our situation rather than our inheritance in Christ. In that context, prayer is defined as circumstances being resolved the way we want them to be.

The new man however, is relational first! We focus on who God is for us and also on who we are in Christ, which fills us with joy and thanksgiving. Therefore, prayer is answered differently in the new man.

The first thing God does is to upgrade who we are in Jesus. Next, He works from His place of habitation in you. He does this by giving key places to stand, in Him. He gives you promises, scripture, and prophecy that declare His purpose and intention.

Each "I will" statement is designed to provoke joy and peace in believing. Always have a crafted prayer that empowers you to rest and relax in His loving kindness, so that you can access the inheritance in Jesus that belongs to you. Here is mine, which you can use until you get a better one... then I want yours!

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*"Father, thank you that I am facing this situation in Christ, with the Holy Spirit. Living in Christ means that you have a plan and purpose for me always. I choose to partner with the Redeemer who will remove all negative thoughts and emotions. I also partner with the Spirit of Wisdom and Revelation who brings me into all Truth. I ask to know your will and purpose so that I may embrace your heart in this situation. I am confident in Your love of Jesus in me. I trust your heart towards me in the fruit of the Spirit. I am your beloved. This is my stance in you... in this circumstance.*

*In Jesus Name,*

*Amen*

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We are fulfilled in and through His presence. This is where Father/ Creator shapes our living space in His answers: "i.e. - we have the petitions that we ask in Him."

I love that God's unchanging nature, in joy and peace, do not allow us to have fellowship with a negative. We are not praying from a

place of panic wanting to be rescued. We are learning how to turn a problem into a possibility, because we have an inheritance in Jesus!

I love that there is no situation where God can not be magnificent on our behalf. Genesis 18: 9-15...love this encounter - "Is anything too hard for the Lord?" That is our inheritance thought and attitude.

In this challenge we are calling you up to a new awareness of your relationship in Christ and your fellowship with the Helper. It is time to learn how to respond in Christ rather than resist in your old self.

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**KEY #2**  
**GOD IS ALWAYS PREPARED!**

He knows the end from the beginning, which means that He has been to your tomorrows. Deuteronomy 31:8 - "The Lord, He is the One who goes before you. He will also be with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you... do not be fearful nor be dismayed."

Isn't that beautiful? He goes ahead, He walks alongside, He never leaves! The New covenant, based on the inheritance of Jesus in us, is far superior to the old covenant written in stone - Hebrews 8:6-13.

The one written in our heart and mind empowers us to walk with God, in Jesus, so that we will know Him in a new and living way. The new covenant, written in the blood

of Jesus, makes the old covenant obsolete. That is so powerful!

God went before Abraham to provide a ram caught in a thicket, to spare Isaac's life. He went before Israel in the wilderness to make a huge provision for a nation coming out of bondage in Egypt.

Jesus talked about preparation to His disciples in John 14:2 - "I go to prepare a place for you, that where I am you may be also." That place is your habitation in Christ.

Ephesians 2:22, "In whom you are being built, together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit." Imagine that! We are co-constructed as God's permanent spiritual residence. You are God's address!

He has prepared whatever you need and the Spirit is present to guide you until you find it. So prayer becomes the relational place where we abide, listen and receive the provision that belongs to Jesus in us.

As a new creation in Christ we are not looking for situational resolution as proof that He hears us. We know that every circumstance is an opportunity to encounter another aspect of God's nature.

In John 11:38-46 Jesus, standing outside the tombs of Lazarus prayed, "Father, I thank you that You have heard Me. I know that you always hear me; but for the sake of people standing here, I said it so that they may believe." What you are reading here is the promise of answered prayer as part of your



inheritance in Jesus!

A life of prayer as the new man in Christ is one of quietly confident expectation. We expect the Father to be faithful to Jesus in us, we anticipate that the Redeemer will make every situation redemptive. We know that in Christ everything carries a 'yes and amen' as we practice abiding in Him. As we pray with Him; His intention becomes clear and we pray in alignment and faith with Him.

We are simply learning to live with God as much-loved children. We are His Beloved. Simple trust in God's loving nature empowers a faith that works by love - Galatians 5:6.

Whatever we need to walk with God, in the same manner as Jesus, has already been deposited in us by His presence. Our prayers reflect His confidence. God uses His expectation in Jesus to re-program our emotions in line with His own nature. God is always prepared to back Christ in us 100%!

It is the simplicity of the GOOD NEWS...the uncomplicated trust of a child with a good Father. It is vital to see ourselves in Jesus, living in the heart of God, and to value the process that makes those truths become our reality in the Kingdom. This is the life we practice with The Three; Father, Son and Spirit...who create, redeem and empower us constantly and consistently.

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### **KEY #3**

#### **Connect with the ONE who abides in you!**

Enjoy giving your heart to that empowering presence. Many times I have heard people say, "If only I could get this person to pray for me, everything would be OK." What if THAT person was Jesus? What if it was the Holy Spirit? What if they BOTH prayed for you? What if you could be on THEIR prayer team every day?

The Kingdom reality is that you have the most brilliant partnership imaginable with Jesus and the Holy Spirit. They are fully focused, and completely committed to praying for you and WITH you!

Focus is an ongoing preoccupation with the Truth that sets us free. Ask the One who lives in you and abides with you, and who loves to love you, "What are you praying Lord, for me?"

Write it down, then pray it back to Them.

Do you have specific scriptural promises and key verses where God reveals His heart? One passage that I was given decades ago, as a life scripture for my fellowship with God, is Isaiah 41:8-14.

*v8 "You, Israel, My Servant. Jacob whom I have chosen. Descendant of Abraham, My friend.*

*v9 You whom I have taken from the ends of the Earth, and called from its remotest parts... And said to you...you are My servant, I*

*have chosen you and not rejected you.*

*v10 Do not fear for I AM with you; do not anxiously look about you, for I Am your God. I will strengthen you, SURELY I will help you! SURELY I will uphold you with MY righteous right hand.*

*v11 Behold all those who are angered at you will be shamed and dishonored. These who contend with You will be as nothing and will perish.*

*v12 You will seek those who quarrel with you, but will not find them. Those who war with you will be as nothing and non-existent.*

*[verses 11-12, refer to spiritual wickedness in high places, not the general judgemental criticism and negative language, and opposition of people who don't like or agree with you. These are the people we practice God's Nature on in Jesus...so much fun!]*

*v13 "For I AM the Lord your God who upholds your right hand. Who says to you: "Do not fear, I will help you.*

*v14 Do not fear, you worm Jacob, you men of Israel. I will help you, declares the Lord, and your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel."*

The backstory to this incredible promise is that Jacob was a deceiver, who stole his brother's blessing by deceiving his father. God changed Jacob's life and eventually He re-named Jacob and called him Israel, which means... one who prevails, who has a posterity with God and knows His strength -

Genesis 35:10-12.

So, this is a lifelong blessing that covers our entire journey of growth from the low place of weakness to the high place of relationship with God. This blessing has been magnificent for me, in me, to me, over me. It has become my number one truth for any adversity in and around my life.

Truth must create a new reality that lines up with God's promise and provision. This passage has created a consistent focus on Who God is for me at all times. Every time the Lord and I talk about it, I know that my focus will change and so will my heart, my lens, my language, my mindset and the way I walk with God.

There are two realities that we must deal with in life situations. The physical reality of what is taking place, and the relational reality of God's presence! There is always a higher level of truth than the facts.

In your own time study the story in Numbers 13:25 to 14:10. One group only saw the problem and were reduced to seeing themselves as grasshoppers, not able to affect anything. Another group said, "God in His pleasure will give it to us. Our enemy is our prey. The Lord is with us!" One group inherited the promise, the others did not.

It is not what God is talking us out of that is most vital. It is what He is talking us into!

That Truth is always who God wants to be for us! God has used the promises, blessings and

the permissions in Isaiah 41 to talk me into living with Him in His habitation in me! It has given me a language of trust and faith that has released rejoicing and giving of thanks. It has created the substance of crafted prayers based on His words...that constantly bear fruit.

What I especially love is that the Redeemer lives in me, so I abide in His redemptive lifestyle.

The Helper lives in me also and empowers me to be bold in coming to where God's love is enthroned in my heart because of Jesus. Three plus me enables me to receive mercy's kiss and discover the grace I urgently need to strengthen me in a time of need - Hebrews 4:15-16 TPT.

It is so marvelous to me that Jesus is not remote in heaven praying for me. He resides in my inner heart and prays with me. He is importing peace, joy and rest, and their confidence in knowing that the Father always hears them. So the central question is, what are they praying and how can I find out?

In all our life situations we are learning to become like Jesus. In any life issue ask the Redeemer,

*"What do you want to redeem in me through this situation?"*

Ask the Helper/Comforter,

*"What particular Fruit of The Spirit do you*

*want to develop in me at this time?"*

We are being made in God's image and likeness so the Fruit of The Spirit [Gal 5:22-23] is a massive part of God's presence in our life. The answers to both those questions will create some necessary focus.

Remember this is not a D.I.Y spirituality. We have to hear from God. When the inner man of the heart is tuned in to God's Nature...focus begins to shape our seeing and believing.

I love to practice stillness. Some situations are noisy. They are loud with internal stress, negativity and lack of peace. Psalm 46:10 - "Be still and know that I AM God!"

Make a quiet place where you can go to rest, relax and be still. I have three: my meditation suite in my office building where I am surrounded by creative space that the Three plus me built together. Secondly is the local beach where I can walk with Him in assurance and expectation.

Thirdly there is a city park where I love to sit on a bench and just be still.

Silence is always our starting point for prayer. The secret place of God's affection is the strong tower that abides within. When we have questions, we should anticipate that God will prefer our silence first.

The new man knows that silence is lovely to God, so we welcome it too. The new man knows that before we hear the Lord, we'll

usually hear nothing. What's happening? God is separating you to Himself by removing the noise of your situation so that your heart is unaffected by events and is therefore open to being loved.

There is a deep renewal of His presence that must release us from tension and conflict. Embracing stillness creates a calm, inner quiet. The peace of God is always in you. He is, after all, the prince of Peace.

In stillness we allow the fruit of peace to rise up into our conscious mind. It is stillness that carries an unbroken communion with God. It recalibrates our heart to listen and to hear.

The Lord is happy to be with us in the quiet. Silence is important, because without it people pray too quickly. They can pray out of panic, fear and anxiety dressed up as concern. They cry out for rescue.

In this we are operating out of an earth bound perception when the full might of the Kingdom is ours to explore in Jesus. The King of Love, the Prince of Peace, and The Spirit of Life live within us and we belong to the Three.

This is your true identity in Christ. The Holy Spirit empowers your alignment so that you operate out of Their anointing, then nothing can ever pull you out of that place of abiding. Learning and practicing who God is for you is the essence of real discipling. God is calling you up into His space.

We need to stop calling God down into our

circumstances and allow Him to call us up into his identity. You need to stop trying to get rid of stress, fear and worry and learn with the Prince of Peace how to allow peace to rise up and replace the negative.

When we are at rest we can ask the Lord, "How do You see this?" Often, I love to say to the Lord, "I know You're up to something...what is it?" I pause, I listen. If I don't hear anything, I smile and return to stillness and joy in His presence.

If God does not speak initially, He always speaks eventually. Sometimes, something negative has to lift of you as part of the process. We are learning how to be in relationship and fellowship with a confident, happy, endlessly loving Father.

Jesus and the Spirit are always interceding for us, and we are practicing our listening. We ask and keep on asking.

I'm going to give you one of my favorite prayers for this gap between listening and hearing:

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*"Father, I praise you and thank you for your delight in walking with me and helping me to know you in Spirit and truth.*

*I want to learn to be still and know You. I love Your confidence and I want to experience the joy in who You are for me! I want to hear Your voice and know Your heart. You are my Strong Tower and I want to learn how to be*



*safe and confident in you.*

*I would love for my prayer life to grow into a mature conversation with You. I want to engage with You in a new and living way.*

*In Jesus name,*

*Amen.*

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When you read the book *Crafted Prayer*, you will gain more insight into the process we used for my friend, John, that eventually saved his life around twenty years ago. At the back of the book in Appendix 1, is a worksheet on receiving an inheritance word from God.

Appendix 2 is about short crafted prayers in the Bible.... what I call popcorn prayers. There are also steps to take in crafting prayers for an individual and for a group, and worksheets for both, as well as a stillness exercise.

Lindsay and I are going to unpack these keys and answer any questions that are on this subject.

Thank you for listening!