

## *The Seven Hardest Words in Life...*

**“I was wrong. Will you forgive me?”** Often the only thing that stands between peace and us are these seven words - these two sentences. The Psalmist said, *“I finally admitted all my sins to you and stopped trying to hide them. I said to myself, “I will confess them to the Lord.” And you forgave me! All my guilt is gone”* (Ps. 32:5, paraphrased). When you are ready to cast aside the load you carry, try confession. One moment after sincere confession we are free!

## *Thy Will Be Done!*

The Christian truly surrendered to the Holy Spirit and utterly submissive to the will of God is the mightiest force for revolution in our world! Praying, *“Thy will be done,”* is no mere passive request. It cannot be resentful resignation. When we yield ourselves to God in joyful acceptance of His plan, *all Heaven will break loose in our lives*. The very purpose of prayer is accomplished in sincere surrender to God. We pray to align our will with Heaven and not to align Heaven with our will.

## *Another Giant Falls!*

Relying on the power, provision, and protection of God and with only five stones and a sling, David dropped Goliath in his tracks. God has the same unimaginable victory in mind for you.

*To walk by faith is to face an unending succession of giants, Jordans, and Jerichos, and to conquer each one in turn. Whatever may be our Jericho, it will not jeer at us indefinitely if we obey the Word and will of God. Prayer and patience will bring it low before the soul that dares to obey God.* (V. Raymond Edman)

What do we ask for? **Don’t ask God to reduce your challenge to the size of your strength, but rather ask God to increase your strength to the size of your challenge!**

*The great people of the earth today are the people who pray. I do not mean talk about prayer; nor those who say they believe in prayer; nor yet those who can explain prayer; but I mean those people who take time and pray. They have not time. It must be taken from something else. This something else is important. Very important, and pressing, but still less important and less pressing than prayer.* (S. D. Gordon)



# *Prayer: Making Things Happen!*

Moses prayed, and the Red Sea parted, water came from the rock, and manna fell from Heaven! Joshua prayed and the Jordan River stopped in its course, and the Promised Land was claimed. Hannah prayed, and God gave her a son, Samuel. Elijah prayed, and fire fell!

*The prophet Elijah stepped forward and prayed: “O LORD... let it be known today that you are God... and that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command. Answer me, O LORD, answer me, so these people will know that you, O LORD, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again.”*

*Then the fire of the LORD fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the soil, and also licked up the water in the trench.*

(I Kings 18:36-38)

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The God of the Bible brings one fact into clear focus: **when we pray, He intends for things to happen!**

The God of deliverance, protection, and provision is ready to meet our needs today! However, all too often, we do not *see things happen*. Why? Has God changed? Are the problems too difficult today? Or, could it be that we are not praying so as to *see things happen*? James, a great prayer warrior himself, answers our question:

*You do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives,* (James 4:2-3).

According to James, two common barriers keep us from experiencing the supernatural from the hand of God:

- **Failure to pray** – As R.A. Torrey said, *“We are too busy to pray and so we are too busy to have power.”*
- **The wrong motive in Prayer** – Madame Guyon said, *“I made many mistakes by allowing myself to be too much taken up with my interior joys.”*

Do you want the parched famine of unanswered prayer to become a lush green feast of new supernatural growth? Do you want to see things happen when you pray? Here’s how.

**“Excuse Me,  
May I Interrupt...”**

If you are like the “average Joe,” prayer has become a monologue rather than a dialogue. Has your praying become the ultimate collect call? To be blunt, **we don’t let God get a word in edgewise.**

How would you feel if a friend only reached out when he wanted something from you and then only long enough to “get the goody” and be gone? What if he never said, “Thank you?” What if years went by before the next contact? Doesn’t this pattern resemble the way many of us pray? God wants to be more than our “Heavenly Gumball Machine” in which we put in a prayer and get out a treat. He wants us to know and experience the full depth of His love.

**Prayer is not talking at God; it is talking with God!** Open your Bible (His love-letter to you); begin to read it as personal correspondence from an intimate friend. Don’t see it as a dusty history book or a dull theology lesson. If you will dare to take this challenge, you will begin hearing God speak to you. Yes, He will even deal with the issues troubling you today!

**LOOK! Jesus made a promise to you about His Word and your praying:** *“If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it shall be done for you”* (Jn. 15:7). Don’t go to God with your “Christmas Wish List” or your “Top Ten Reasons Why You Hate Life.” Go to the Bible and say, **“GOD...**

- **“I want to know YOU!”**
- **“I want to love YOU!”**
- **“I want to serve YOU!”**

Begin by praying, *“Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law”* (Ps. 119:18). Let Him start the conversation by what He says to you in the scripture. Then respond to Him based upon what he says...

- **THANK HIM** (Ps. 100:4)
- **PRAISE HIM** (Ps. 66:1-4)
- **APOLOGIZE** (1 Jn. 1:9)
- **SURRENDER** (Mt. 6:10)
- **ASK FOR HELP** (Jer. 33:3)

## **How Can I Say Thanks?**

*“Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise”* (Ps. 100:4). Beginning prayer with thanksgiving can have a transforming effect on us. Warren Myers explained why: *“Thanksgiving and praise honor Him (God) and draw us from being too occupied with ourselves and our earthly concerns.”* Thank Him for what He has done, for what He is doing (seen and unseen), and for what He yet will do. Never forget, in the story of the healing of the ten lepers, it was the grateful one that received an even greater blessing. As you concentrate on thanksgiving, you will find yourself quickly led to praise.

## **Let all that has breath praise the LORD! (Psalm 150:6)**

Jesus taught us to begin our praying with *“Our Father which art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name”* (Mt. 6:9). Do you see it? Do you see His point? Begin praying by praising. Praise moves beyond thanksgiving in that it causes us to focus not on what God has done but on who He is. Praise is the celebration of all that makes God uniquely GOD! Listen to what O. Hallesby had to say about praise:

*If we will make use of prayer, not to wrest from God advantages for ourselves or for our dear ones, nor to escape from tribulations and difficulties, but to call down upon ourselves and others those things which will glorify the name of God, then we shall see the strongest and boldest promises of the Bible fulfilled in our lives.*

**Prayer filled with praise brings power to the life of the believer!**