



ADAM HOUGE

7 POWERFUL PRAYERS FOR  
SPIRITUAL  
GROWTH

WEEK 1

A pair of hands is shown clasped in prayer, with fingers interlaced. The hands are positioned in the center of the frame. The background is a textured, brownish-gold surface, possibly stone or wood, with a large, faint cross shape visible behind the hands. The lighting is warm and dramatic, highlighting the texture of the hands and the background.

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**SPIRITUAL  
GROWTH**  
WEEK 1

7 Powerful Prayers For Spiritual Growth: Week 1™  
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7 Powerful Prayers For Spiritual Growth: Week 1™

by Adam Houge

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The 7 Powerful Prayers For Spiritual Growth three week devotional prayer series

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## Introduction

“Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.” 3Jn 1:2

Prosperity has a face. What it looks like isn't always what we imagine it to be until we meet it. What's most important is to seek the true qualities of Christ. These true qualities bring abundance of life. He did say after all,

“The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.” Joh 10:10

But what is an abundant life? Some of us hear that it's abundance of goods in this life. Some of us hear that it's abundance in our life when we stand before Christ. Then there are still some who understand that it says, that God will give an abundant amount of life, such as eternal life. According to the original Greek this statement is in fact saying “giving eternal life.” But does God still give prosperity? Certainly! However what we imagine prosperity to be may be different from what it actually looks like when we have it.

Does God want to bless you? Certainly! You're his precious beloved child. Don't you want to bless your children? But why are some of us still broken and poor? Because God as a good parent knows to give us what is best for our growth. Therefore he gives us the spiritual things before the physical.

As parents we understand to love our children perfectly and give them what they need before we give them what they want. Then when their hearts are tempered to be responsible with other things we give them the blessing we had intended. God, being perfectly loving, is doing this with us also.

But each man has His place in Christ whether rich or poor. Yet this one thing we know, that He will certainly give us the deepest sense of riches in the New Jerusalem, according to promise. Both Spiritual and physical shall be given to us because our hearts will be prepared and tempered, and our new bodies will be unable to sin. As it is written in Isaiah,

“Then you shall see and become radiant, And your heart shall swell with joy; Because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, The wealth of the Gentiles shall come to you. The multitude of camels shall cover your *land*, The dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; All those from Sheba shall come; They shall

bring gold and incense, And they shall proclaim the praises of the Lord.” Isa 60:5-6

So there is definitely a time and a place for a physical blessing. But God in His time gives us all things when our hearts are in the proper place. Until then we are commanded by Jesus to seek first the Spirit and He will add to us all other things. This tempers our hearts to be prepared for all things He wishes to do in our lives. As we read in 3 John 1:2 he desires that we may prosper “as our soul prospers.” This suggests that the first thing to prosper should be inside of us.

Also God and His kingdom are spirit. If then you love the Lord you will seek Him for who is, and not who you desire Him to be. Therefore in seeking His kingdom we will seek the things of the Spirit first, as we wait for His blessing last. This is having an upright heart: being willing to do the right thing even when it doesn't seem to benefit us. Don't seek God for a benefit, seek Him for a relationship.

He is the face of Prosperity and Salvation. He has carefully laid out what His face and heart look like in His word, and we should be careful to seek Him for who He is. Seeking wealth in this world should not be what we seek, but Christ should be Whom we seek.

As it is written:

“For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.” Mat 6:32-33

The Lord has said that they “Shall be added to you.” This statement is set in “promise form.” God cannot lie, and for Him to say “It shall come to pass” or “You shall have it” tells us that just as He has promised “we shall have it.”

Not necessarily will we all have riches in this life, although for some it is the case. But for certain He will give it to us when we are before Him. Just as He has promised. So at this time I will not discuss the things which make us rich in this world, but the things which make us rich towards Christ, that we may inherit the blessing.

Throughout the pages of this book we will be devoting our days to prayer. This book is both a study and a devotional with each prayer representing a day of prayer. During each consecutive day we will pray the given prayer, but put to practice the previous prayers from previous days. So as to create a pattern of



prayer and practice. In this we are devoting ourselves not only to growing in and practicing godliness, but also to devoting ourselves (our temples) to becoming houses of prayer for God. Even as the Lord has said,

“....For My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations.” Isa 56:7

You are that house. Therefore let’s take this time to devote ourselves to becoming houses of prayer for God.

When you're finished with the course of this book, if there is anything you struggled with, continue to go back and reread and practice those things. The point behind this is to devote ourselves to growing and praying, that we may prosper in the Spirit. This was written to help you grow in Christ that we may be rich toward Him in all things.

# Day One Prayer One

*The Most Important Prayer You'll Ever Pray.*

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.” Joh 3:16-17

This prayer is so important it will always be the first in several of my prayer books. I can't express enough the need for us to pray this. Without seeking and praying for God's saving grace, there is no grace for us at all.

If you want a deeper and more intimate relationship with the Lord, but haven't made Him your Lord and Savior yet I would like to invite you to that now. God desires a relationship with each of us. He is a very intimate and relational God, who loves each and every one of us. He knows everything about us, and still wants to know us more.

There is a difference between knowing things about someone, and then knowing them personally and intimately. I'm sure you could think of a famous actor and say, “oh I know about them!” But then someone who is a personal friend with that actor would brag, “yeah but I know them personally.” The person who is good friends with that actor will know the truth about them. Whether the rumors the magazines publish are true, or just made up to get readers. They'll know everything about that person's life, and enjoy every moment with them. Why? Because their friends.

God works the same way. There are many things said about God, but there is only one way to know the truth about Him. God wants that friendship with you, and to enjoy every minute of it. He loves you!

No matter where you've been and no matter what you've done, God loves you. A few of you reading this may have done something really horrible to think that God can't possibly love you. But God says He still does. Can you believe Him? Can you believe that God is better than you and can love you even when you wouldn't love yourself? You already know that a relationship with Him requires faith, and this is one of those times you need faith. Have faith that God is better than you and can love you no matter what.

Now God does love us, but He does NOT love our sin. In order for you to be saved God had to come down as a man and suffer a horrible and gruesome death. We read in the bible that He was “Pierced for our transgressions.” So because we sinned He needed to be crucified.

If He was not mocked, beaten, tortured, stripped naked and crucified, neither you nor I could be saved.

There would be no hope for us AT ALL! Because we sinned against God, His wrath would abide upon us. But God is a loving God and doesn't want to have wrath. He as a judge is perfectly just. So His heart dictated that He needed to have justice on our sins, and our sin requires wrath. Because God loved us, he decided to give us a way out of judgment, and yet still have justice on our sin. He chose to have the wrath laid on His own shoulders for our salvation.

You need to understand how much God loves you. Even though we deserve hell for sinning against Him, he can't stand the thought of sending us there. He's not a vengeful wrathful God, but a perfectly loving God.

He made you. He formed you in your mother's womb and sewed all your sinews. He connected all your bones and brought you forth in life. He gave you your life to love you in the first place. We read in the bible that God knows all things. He knows your heart, your frame (remember he made it), and everything you'll ever need and everything you'll ever aspire to be. But He hasn't only known you now that you're alive. He's known you since before time. Before He ever created time, He thought of you. You are not an accident! You are a purposeful well-thought out creation of God. He's been spending thousands of years thinking of you. How you will look, and act. How you will respond to things in life, and how life will respond to you. He's been thinking of these things before the world ever spun on its axis.

He planned you and has always had a plan for you. God has spent so much time thinking about you and creating you that He treats you like His own child in His heart. If your child does the wrong thing, don't you want to turn them around again? If your child committed a crime deserving of death, wouldn't you try to save them from it? “Maybe if they're sorry and change their life, they won't have to die,” You might think. What would you do if you were told someone had to die, and were given the choice to die for them? What if that person sinned against you or your children? Would you die for them? But God is so loving that even when we sin against Him, He still loved us and chose to die for us.

He doesn't want any kind of vengeance, He wants to give you life. It was his plan to begin with and it's why you were born! But perfect justice must be served. Any sin we commit is deserving of death. It is an act of rebellion against God who gave us life in the first place. God knows what we deserve, and must administer perfect justice for our crimes.

But He has loved you so much that He couldn't stand the thought of living in eternity without you. Nothing would break His heart more, than being without you. So He like any loving parent chose to stand in your place. He came down and was born as a man, and named Himself Jesus, which means

“deliverer” or “savior.” He called himself this because He wanted to save you from the penalties of your sin. But because perfect justice needed to be met, and someone needed to die for your sin, He like any loving parent chose to stand in your place. Even though we were wicked against Him, He still chose to die out of love for us.

He chose to die to save you, in the hope that His death would convict you of sin. He hopes that you might repent and live for Him as you were created to do. Remember what we said, “Maybe if they’re sorry, they won't have to die.” This was His mindset when He sacrificed Himself for you. He wants us to be sorry for our sins, and repent. Repent means to do a complete 180 in life -To turn and go the opposite direction we're currently going.

And this is His heart toward you. God doesn't want you to go to hell, He loves you! He cares so much about you! He has shown us by His sacrifice that He would rather be beaten, whipped, tortured, and murdered on a cross than spend another moment in eternity without you. You’re so precious to Him!

Don't turn Him away, and don't turn Him down. He has loved you, even when no one else has. How could you pass up that kind of love?

No matter what your decision is now, God will always love you. Even if you hate Him, He'll still love you. He's perfect and can't help but be perfectly loving. But He's perfectly just too. He doesn't want to have wrath on us, but if we can't be sorry for the things we've done and change our lives, He can't save us. It is our own decision and not His. He gave us that decision and gave us freewill. He gave us a way out, and if we don't take it, there is no other way to be saved from condemnation. There is no other name that we must be saved by than Jesus Christ.

If we don't take His gift, then in Judgment God with tears in His eyes, will guide

you down the path you wanted. He will love you and guide you all the way to the gates of Hell. It's never what He wanted, but if you pass Him up today, it's what you wanted. He wants to give you a way out and chose to die for you so you could have one. Don't turn up this opportunity. There will never be another one. I want to encourage you to take this opportunity for grace, right now, and ask Jesus Christ to be your Lord and Savior.

Please pray with me,

“Lord I know I've sinned and I'm sorry. I'm sorry for every way I've ever hurt you or anyone else. God I repent! I want to change my life! I want to be better for you. Please forgive me. God I can't do this myself. I failed at this life you gave me the first time I tried. Please help me God. Please help me to do this right. Please give me your Holy Spirit now that I may be alive in you. Give me Your Spirit Lord that I can have strength to please you in all things. Create in me a new heart. I devote my life to you now. Please Jesus, be my Lord and Savior forever. Amen.”

The Lords Answer,

“Oh beloved! Oh my precious baby! I'm so happy with you! I'm so proud of you! I've never been happier with you than right now! I am telling you the truth, there are tens of thousands of angels rejoicing before me because of you! You have set a fire in their hearts, and they can't help but sing and dance that I have my baby back!

This is all I ever wanted -For you to be sorry, and give your life to me. I created you to have a relationship with you. I made heaven and earth for this reason, that I may have a place to meet with you and connect with you: my new friend. How could you not think that I love you? I've done all these things for you, because you mean so much to me! Now let me mean much to you.

Let me be the center of your life. Let me live in you and with you. Let me guide you and take you by the hand. Let me take care of you. I will take care of you! You're my baby after all!

Surrender to me, and let me be your Lord in everything. I will take care of you. I will save you from everything that comes your way. I promise! But be good to follow Me now, and listen to my convictions. I will speak into your heart through my Spirit, incline your ear to Him. Listen to my convictions and do the

right thing, obey Him. I know what is best, always. So always follow Me and obey Me.

Grow in Me and grow close to Me. Serve Me and where I am you will be also. You are not serving me if you don't listen to me. Be diligent to obey me, and not your own heart. If you're making Me your Lord, then deny your life and let Me Lord over you. I have a use for you. I have a plan for you. Let me take you by the hand to fulfill it. Let me lead you in your walk with me. Besides I know the way to where we're going, not you!

I'm going to give you eternal life so you can be with Me, where I am, forever. I will do this so long as you continue in Me, and obey Me.”

## Day Two Prayer Two

### *Being A True Disciple*

"If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple."Luk 14:26-27

Being a disciple requires us to have the greatest sense of submission and devotion. The Lord has a clear and concise plan for our lives. We are called to surrender to His leading in every aspect of life that we may follow after His preplanned goals for us.

As we read: "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." Eph 2:10

God's plan is all that matters! If it were not for His plans we wouldn't be saved. It was a part of His plan for you to be saved, and when you gave your life to Him you surrendered to that plan, to make Him your Lord. If then He is our Lord we must surrender to Him in all things. Seeing that we were paid for with a price, we are not our own, therefore should no longer live for our aspirations but God's.

We need to be careful not to live this life for ourselves, pleasing ourselves, but for the Lord. When we came to Christ He gave us a command to carry our cross, to die to ourselves, to this life, to die to our families, and friends, that we might live for Him.

If we don't surrender to Him and His plans we cannot be saved. As we read:

"Therefore let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father. And this is the promise that He has promised us—eternal life." 1Jn 2:24-25

You've heard many things from the beginning of your salvation. But one of those things is to make Jesus your Lord. Making Him the Lord of your life isn't just a onetime thing at salvation and then we're done. Making Him Lord is a daily process of sacrifice and surrender. By becoming a living sacrifice we are

learning to die to our own desires, to our own hearts, to live for Him. As we read,

“And those *who are* Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.” Gal 5:24

Being a disciple of Jesus suggests that you are fully surrendered to Him that He may Lord over you, admonish you, and teach you in ALL things. We need to surrender our lives and crucify our flesh. Remove all manner of sinful passion and desire from your heart and replace it with submission to God. Let Him be ruler and master over your life. A disciple is taught by his master, and if we make ourselves to be someone else's disciple we are making them ruler over us.

Some ministers have forgotten this rule of thumb that Jesus is the Discipler and we are the disciples. In this, people are calling disciples after themselves, making themselves out to be holy men of God. But we as ministers need to let Christ teach, admonish, and disciple His children through us. This is why we need to surrender, that we can minister God's way and not ours. Sometimes there are things God calls us to do in ministry (or in any aspect of life for that matter) that don't make sense to us. So we tend to push those callings away thinking they are irrational, and in an attempt to be stable and sober, we try to minister our own way. Unfortunately this is causing some of us to forget to pray before we do anything. As it is written:

“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” Php 4:6

We need to remember to surrender every aspect of ministry to the Lord, even the little things. We know that he who is trust worthy in a little is trustworthy with much. Letting God work through us isn't always easy. Because when it doesn't make sense we are required to have blind faith. But when God calls us as ministers to have blind faith He is taking an opportunity to grow us. In this He is also making us an example for those we disciple, that they may see us practicing the walk we preach to them.

So in everything -whether ministry or in everyday life- we need to lay all things before the Lord that He can make the decisions for us. Let Him take you by the hand, and let Him minister through you.

For those of us who are ministers, we need to remember to sit quietly in the



Lord's presence waiting for His words that we may give the exact message and word of God to His children. If we turn even one of His little children astray we know that we will have a millstone tied around our necks. It is so much more important to preach and share truth, perfectly and completely than our own hearts. If we do not then we are purposely misguiding the children of God, for which reason we would have a millstone.

But for those of you who are not ministers, seek Christ in all things. Lay everything at His feet before you do anything. Wait for His answer before you do single thing. Learn to be patient and not hasty. If he doesn't answer your prayer, then don't do anything yet. He'll answer in His own time.

And if He does answer, then do exactly what He says no matter the cost. This is making Him your Lord, that He may have full control over your life.

So surrender every moment of your life to him and not just this little bit of time in this devotional you're reading. I want to encourage you to stop setting time aside for God! Set your whole life aside, and give Him all your time. This is what it means to give Him your life.

But seek to be taught by Him and Him alone. Look for God speaking through your pastor, and don't be taught by your pastor himself. Learn to incline your ear to God's voice in your life. Whether by the Holy Spirit from your pastor, or brother or sister in the Lord, listen for God's voice. Whatever is God speaking, cling to, and whatever is not, throw out, because it serves you no purpose.

As we read:

“Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ” Php 3:8

If it isn't Jesus then it's rubbish, and you must keep that mindset. This word “rubbish” in original Greek is skubalon, which according to Strong's Greek definitions means “Dung.”

Thayer Greek definitions adds that it was used to describe a “worthless and detestable thing.” The reference number is G4657 in 'Strong's Greek and Hebrew definitions of the Bible' if you would like to look that up yourself.

So treat everything in your life that isn't Christ like a worthless detestable thing. I know it doesn't sound edifying at the thought of it, but if it isn't Jesus treat it

like dung. What would you do with the neighbor's dog droppings in your yard? Would you leave them there for you and your children to step on? No! But you would get a shovel and get it off your property. Do the same with everything in your life, that isn't Jesus. If it isn't Jesus it's dung, so scoop it out of your heart and throw it away. Surrender your life and make Jesus your Lord.

Finally I want to exhort you to learn to be 'teachable.' Whether you're young in the lord or a minister. You never know who or what God is going to use to teach you some new thing. By letting our ears be open and inclined to the Lord's voice in others, we are making ourselves teachable for Jesus. Even if we minister, we are still His disciples and always have much to learn from Him. So let all of us learn to be taught by God, making ourselves His disciples. Be wary of those who claim to be disciplers but don't surrender to God at all times. It won't be God discipling you through them and you should have nothing to do with such a person that they might repent.

As it is written:

“Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.” Act 20:30

Those perverse things won't seem perverse or no one would become their disciple, or go to their church. Rather those things they speak are issues of false doctrine. Anything that is not a doctrine of Christ is false doctrine, and the doctrine of demons. As we further read:

“Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons” 1Ti 4:1

So we need to learn to test people's words to be sure it is God speaking to us. We need to compare these things to the scriptures and be sober in everything we learn. As it is written:

“For the ear tests words as the palate tastes food.” Job 34:3

Just as your tongue tastes food, so let your ear test everything it hears -to know whether or not God is speaking. If you don't know your doctrine, sit down and read the Word. Listen to the Holy Spirit speaking to you in the pages and memorize what He teaches you. Take the time to learn from Him as you read, and learn His voice through reading. As you learn His voice you, being His sheep will be able to hear His voice more clearly through others. You will know whether or not Jesus is speaking to you through them. Make yourself a disciple

of Christ, and be teachable. Do not be a disciple of another person, but let God be your teacher and master.

Seek to constantly grow, a plant that doesn't grow will never bear fruit. A plant that never bears fruit God doesn't count as His disciple. But as we read:

“Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every *branch* that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.” Joh 15:2

He takes away those who aren't serious in their walks, but those who are He prunes. This pruning can involve trials for growth. So when you step out to follow the Lord with a fervent and sincere heart, expect to enter some trials. Expect to be persecuted also, not only by the world, but by brothers and sisters in the church who aren't taking their walks seriously. Because they haven't grown, they lack understanding, and because they don't understand they will persecute you. Even as Jesus' own people persecuted Him, expect it to come from your own people too.

As we discussed learn to be taught by God. Being taught by Him makes you His disciple. Be devoted to learning from Him and growing in Him. Being His disciple REQUIRES that you are taught by Him, as we read:

“It is written in the prophets, 'AND THEY SHALL ALL BE TAUGHT BY GOD.' Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me.” Joh 6:45

Come to Jesus, be devoted to abiding in Him every moment of the day. In regard to works: if it isn't Jesus working in you then don't do the work. If it isn't Jesus speaking through you then don't speak a word. Be teachable, and learn to be taught by God, whether through the Spirit speaking to you, or the Spirit speaking through others. Surrender everything to Him and become a real, true devoted Christian.

This prayer is a call to surrender; to surrender your life and your own ambitions. A call to die to this life, to yourself, to your family, that you may live for Christ. Let this be your permanent devotion to God that you would make it your life's goal to grow nearer to Him always.

The Prayer,

“Lord disciple me. Teach me. Teach me how to follow you, and how to please you. I surrender to you, and to your working. Lord I surrender my life and my

ambitions. I want your will to be done in My life. I make myself pliable in your hands, have your way with me.”

The Lord’s Answer,

“There is nothing I could want more than to lead you. I know the way to salvation, and you don’t. Let Me lead you beloved. Let Me teach you, and show you My ways which are higher than yours. When you don’t understand, learn to put your trust in me. I will always bring you to things you don’t understand. Not only to test your faith, but to teach you something new. If you already knew the way to the Father, then why would you need Me as a teacher? And My Spirit as your counselor and Guide?

Beloved I will lead you always. I will take you by the hand and show you the way you should go. Only be good to wait for Me. Do nothing without my word first. Faith comes by hearing My word, and I have much to say to you. But if all you hear after you pray is the whistling of the wind, it’s because I haven’t spoken yet. I’m not ignoring you. I’m testing you. Are you going to be faithful and wait for My word? Or will you step out to do things without Me? Will you be faithful and wait to submit to Me? Will you submit to My Spirit’s lead and truly be pliable?

Let Me work through you. Beloved let Me minister through you, that My children will receive Me and not you. Let them receive Me for I Am the Way of salvation, and without Me no one can do anything. But if you wait on Me I will speak to you and I will work through you.

By yourself you can do nothing. But with Me you can do anything! So long as you have faith, all things will be possible for you.”

## Day Three Prayer Three

*For As Many As Are Led By Me These Are My Sons*

It is written:

“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.” Rom 8:14

You are not even considered a son of God unless you learn to be led by Him. And how can you do His will if you don’t wait to hear it?

“And He stretched out His hand toward His disciples and said, "Here are My mother and My brothers! For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother." Mat 12:49-50

How can we know His will if we don’t hear it?

“faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” Rom 10:17

We are saved by the faith which we listen for. As it is written,

“by grace you have been saved through faith.” Eph2:8

So if we aren’t listening to obey God we aren’t walking in salvation. If we’re too busy living our own lives and not occupied with the things of grace, His mercy doesn’t rest upon us. We need to hear His word to live by it. If we take our relationship seriously then we will incline our ears to Him, to live by faith. Righteousness is faith in motion. It is the work of faith. The faith we have is expressed by the things we do. When we make ourselves pliable in God’s hands he is able to work through us more powerfully.

To make ourselves pliable suggests that we will have a willingness to follow God in all things. Even as Jesus said to the disciples, “Follow Me.” Following Him is a call to die. To die to everything in this world, that we can live for Him and Him alone.

When we prepare our hearts in this it makes us pliable and teachable. God speaks to those who are listening. He never wastes a word and nothing is ever spoken in vain. Every word is for eternal life, so the more He speaks to us and the more we obey the better. He is always speaking, but if you aren’t hearing the Lord, the question is, “are you really listening?”

He has much to say to you always, in everything you do. When you go to the store, when you eat, when you wake up, and when you go to bed. He's always speaking, but you need to be listening. He speaks to lead you in a daily walk, and if you're not walking with Him you're not being led by Him. If you aren't led by Him, you aren't following Him. The word "Christian" literally means: "Follower of Christ."

And as we said before if you're not being led you can't even be counted as a son. You must make it your life's priority to be led by God in everything. That way you will be justified in everything you do, because the Lord told you to do it and He has worked through you in it.

So learning surrender comes before learning to be led. As we discussed in the previous prayer you need to lay down your life, and surrender, that you can be led by the Spirit. Seeing that God is always speaking, I'd like to exhort you, to get acquainted with the voice of God. Learn to always know what the Holy Spirit is speaking to you, that you can always obey Him.

When we read that faith comes by hearing the Word, we need to remember two things. The first thing is that the bible is the written Word of God. Faith comes from the gospel message. Secondly there is the Word of God spoken through the Holy Spirit, which is applicable for today. Listening to His convictions justifies you. This is the active Word of God.

But there is a difference between the written and active word of God. The written is the foundation and essential principles for everyday life. While the active Word explains how to apply the written word day by day. Without the active word of God spoken to us through the Holy Spirit we cannot be justified. We can't live every moment of life by faith. We need His speech to lead us and guide us in the discernment of the Gospel. That we can know how to apply the things written to us for day to day life.

We also need the Spirit for empowerment. Empowerment to obey the very same words He speaks to us. He is the deposit of our salvation, and without Him we aren't saved at all.

As it is written:

"...Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His." Rom 8:9

Being led by the Spirit is simple. We learn what His voice sounds like, then obey it. Have you ever thought you heard from God about something and then later it

turned out that it wasn't Him? Sometimes our own hearts like to deceive us. Sometimes Satan does. But we need to grow in wisdom and discernment to know the voice of the Lord that we may grow in obedience.

So the first aspect of being led is learning His voice. If you thought you heard God and it turned out it wasn't have the humility to admit it to yourself and the Lord, and grow from that experience. Take it to heart to learn what is God and what isn't.

Now one may ask, why isn't God's direction always so clear? How come His word for my life sometimes is as clear as mud? Well you understand that the Lord is relational. In these circumstances, He is providing opportunity for you to grow closer to Him. Closer by prayer and seeking Him. These situations test your heart also. If it's hard to hear God and easy to hear your own heart, what are you going to do?

God is testing you to see if you will deny yourself, and lay down your desires to seek Him and obey Him. He wants an obedient servant not a sacrificial one. If we are trying to do something to please Him of our own accord without being led by the spirit, we are acting like Saul who sought to sacrifice to the Lord. God commanded Saul to destroy the Amalekites, but he only half-heartedly obeyed. He left the animals alive to sacrifice them to the Lord later. But God counted the animals as an abomination, along with the people, which is why He wanted them killed in their own land. If then they are an abomination why would He respect such an offering on His alter?

But Saul thought he knew better than God and could please him with his own ideas. He thought his ideas were better and so made much effort to carry all those animals back for a sacrifice.

But just as the Lord spoke through Samuel when Saul worked his own work,

"Has the LORD *as great* delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, *And* to heed than the fat of rams." 1Sa 15:22

But as for the curse Saul received, He went on to say:

"For rebellion *is as* the sin of witchcraft, *And* stubbornness *is as* iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He also has rejected you from *being* king." 1Sa 15:23

God counts it as rebellion when we don't obey His Spirit, and there is a curse for it. He sees no difference between an idolatrous witch and a disobedient believer. We must take that to heart lest we be rejected. If we work our own works and think God will be pleased, we'll be so broken on the day He rejects us.

So if you seek to please God with your own ideas, He will count it as an abomination. Your works could never attain to His.

Look at creation for a moment and consider His greatness. Do you know how the sun works? For lack of better words it's a massive eternally burning hydrogen bomb. It's so hot the heat can be felt for millions and millions of miles. Just think of a summer day!

For that matter the sun is 93 million miles from the earth, and that's a small skip compared to the distance to the nearest star. Just imagine all the frequent flyer miles you could get from that! Yet that distance is so far it takes 8 minutes for light to travel from the sun to earth!

The moon is about the size of Texas. It has such powerful gravity that it can change the depth of the ocean by almost 38 feet in some places. If one cubic foot of water weighs 62lbs, how much force does it take to change the depth of the entire shore line by 38 feet? The power it has is just incredible!

Now imagine the size of the solar system. The edge of the solar system is proven to be 17.6 billion miles away (the edge is called the heliopause). That makes the width of the solar system 35.2 billion miles wide. That means that if you travel at the speed of light it would take you two days and four hours to cross it. And the size of the universe is so massive that it can't even be measured. Yet God holds all of these things in the palm of His hand.

Look also at the earth. All the creatures that cover the face of the earth are innumerable. God gave Adam a commission to name the animals of the earth. Yet here we are nearly five and a half thousand years after creation and we are still finding new creatures every year to name.

And think of it, how does life exist? How does it work? Why do we live and breathe and have motion and thoughts? With all the knowledge in this world, still no one knows the exact science of that.

Look at babies. How exactly do the bones grow in the mother's womb? I know scientists say today that it has to do with stem cells, but they still don't have a clue. How do the enzymes activate? Why do they? What initiated the need for



birth? God knows all these things. But as it is written:

“As you do not know what *is* the way of the wind, *Or* how the bones *grow* in the womb of her who is with child, So you do not know the works of God who makes everything.” Ecc 11:5

That wind is like the Holy Spirit and His lead. Even as Jesus said:

“The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.” Joh 3:8

So that leaves us with a final thought. As we read in proverbs,

“A man's steps *are* of the LORD; How then can a man understand his own way?” Pro 20:24

Our steps need to be of the Lord, and it is evident we will not understand our own way. But God does understand and we need to lean on Him in everything and not our own understanding as we read in proverbs:

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.” Pro 3:5

If we learn to wait for His voice we can walk by faith. If we walk by faith He will direct our paths. It all boils down to being led by Him on a day to day basis.

So the first aspect of learning to be led is learning His voice. The second is waiting to hear it and the third is submitting to it no matter the cost it brings on your life. And why? Because your love for God compels you to do so!

There is no other way to please Him, and we could never understand our own way. This is why we addressed in the previous prayer the need for surrender. By being pliable, we can be led. Then by being led we can be justified, because it is God who works in us and through us.

The Prayer:

“Lord show me Your way, and light my path. Teach me to walk with You, Your way. I want to follow after you to please You. I want to draw near to You. Teach me how to be led, and give me the strength to obey. I know that without Your leading I cannot even be saved. I fear You, and I love You, so please lead me by

the Spirit, I submit to your guiding hand.”

The Lord’s Answer:

“Beloved, I must lead you. I have said to you that you do not know the way we are going. Stop trying to take the lead, and let me lead you. Wait on Me and wait for My word. I will speak in My own due and proper time. If you obey Me I will justify you. I seek a servant who obeys, not one who walks off while I’m talking and does his own thing.

I do love you, and want to justify you. Your works cannot attain to Mine, unless you let Me work through you. Only then can you see My power moving and working daily in your life. Only then can you be blessed by Me.

Stop trying to bless Me. You can’t bless Me! The greater blesses the lessor. Let Me bless you. Only be submissive and let Me lead you daily.”

# Day Four Prayer Four

## *Spiritual Growth*

As we discussed in a previous prayer the plant that doesn't grow doesn't bear fruit. God requires us to bear the fruit of His Spirit and grace in our lives. We will be called to give an account of everything we do and of everything we ever say.

As it is written:

“But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the Day of Judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.” Mat 12:36-37

We need to be careful to make our words edifying at all times. We shouldn't even say a thing unless it turns others back to Jesus. But how can we speak the right things if we don't grow in His word?

How can we do the right things if we don't surrender to His lead? If we aren't bearing fruit He won't be pleased in us. The fruit we bare is the account we will give in judgment.

We know that the just live by faith. We know that faith comes by the word of God. So unless we learn to sit in the presence of Jesus we can never learn how to live by faith. If we don't live by faith we will be as those who draw back into sin. But if we continue in the spirit (being led by Him) God speaks of us like this:

“But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.” Heb 10:39

So unless we learn to grow constantly in the Spirit we can never be pleasing to God. If we are called to be “perfect as your Father in heaven is perfect” then we all have a long way to go. No body's perfect, but God still requires us to be. God is infinite and if he requires us to be like Him, that means we will always be growing.

But God knows that we aren't perfect, which is why He became our savior. Yet He calls us to be perfect through Christ. Those who aim for perfection will find it. In a manner of speaking we can find it yet in this life. Our definition of moral

perfection many times is different from God's. God tells us through Paul:

“But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.” Col 3:14

God tells us that if we live by and practice love, we will become morally perfect. We know that love fulfills the Law and we also read:

“Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the Day of Judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world.” 1Jn 4:17

If we grow to be perfect in love then God will perfect us. This will give us a sound mind when we are judged. We'll have no fear because we know that we acted like Christ.

But what does this have to do with growing in the Spirit? As it is written,

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.” Gal 5:22-23

If we grow in the Spirit then we need to also learn to grow in the fruits of the Spirit. We need to learn to live out and apply the fruits of the spirit. But growing in the spirit is also growing in a walk with the Spirit. Or that is to say, we will grow to be led. As it is written:

“If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.” Gal 5:25

We need to grow in this daily walk. We need to grow in the fruits of the Spirit, and grow by abiding in His daily presence.

Think about children. If a child doesn't grow (physically speaking), when they become an adult what is it called? Dwarfism, also known as growth hormone deficiency.

Someone who suffers from this tragic disability has a hard time getting through life. This world is made for larger people our size. Our couches are huge, our sinks are high, our cars are big. Some of them need booster seats and peddle extenders to drive a car. A few even need a booster seat to sit at a typical table. How hard it must be to put dishes away in the top cabinet! They need all kinds of accommodations in life, just to get by with day to day activities.

This is like the believer who doesn't grow in Christ. They have a hard time dealing with the issues of this life, and need constant accommodations to help them through hard things. It all comes down to the difficulty they have abiding

in the spirit all day. They can't understand the Word, and some like little children don't care to understand but would rather live a life of indulgence and play.

Someone who doesn't grow has a really hard time coping in trials. They wind up caring more about this life and its passing pleasures or pains than bearing fruit to God. Those who don't grow end up fruitless and cursed.

As we read,

“Now the ones *that* fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity.” Luk 8:14

God wants us to grow: To learn to abide daily, to be sober and disciplined. He wants us to grow that we may be empowered by His Spirit. Empowered to overcome sin and to remain steadfast in trials. He sent us the Helper for this reason: Because we need help! But if we don't accept the help we will wind up in trouble.

We will be choked and fruitless, and bear nothing but thorns and briars. Those thorns are the cares of the world that we let grow in our hearts. The person is the field which bore thorns and not only the seed itself. And as we read,

“For the earth which drinks in the rain that often comes upon it, and bears herbs useful for those by whom it is cultivated, receives blessing from God; but if it bears thorns and briars, *it is* rejected and near to being cursed, whose end *is* to be burned.” Heb 6:7-8

This should lead us to fear! We must grow or we can't be saved! We need to be daily seeking His leading and spirit. We need to be learning new things in Christ all the time. He is always teaching us a new lesson. We discussed earlier the need for being teachable. To be teachable suggests that we are seeking growth. But more specifically today's prayer is to grow in the Holy Spirit and in bearing His fruit.

So let's first discuss those fruits. As we stated the fruits of the spirit are love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

When we grow in love we will also learn to grow in kindness. Love and kindness go hand in hand. To show kindness requires us to see need, and fulfill it. It requires us to be hospitable. Hospitality and kindness give a person a reputation. It's not often that we see someone grown very well in having a

servant's heart.

I had a friend many years ago who invited me to his father's house, which was on the other side of the state. We were going to spend the night, and just as we were arriving this man said to me, "I can't wait for you to meet my father's wife, she is so virtuous!" Now this was not His mother but His father was remarried to another woman. I asked him what he meant by virtuous, and he said, "Just wait until you meet her!" That's all he said and he wouldn't tell me an ounce more.

When I arrived at their house, within seconds after meeting her and shaking her hand she immediately helped me out of my coat and pulled up a chair for me. She offered me something to drink, and made sure I was fed. The next morning she woke up very early to set breakfast. We were in a hurry so she lined up boxes of cereal, and a gallon of milk. She had spoons and bowls all washed, ready and waiting for us. As we left for church she helped me with my coat and everyone else's as we left.

Now this may sound like anyone being a good hostess of a guest but she wasn't acting like a hostess. This wasn't an act at all. This was her normal practice every day for everyone she encountered. She never complained about it, but grew to have joy in it. She served everyone especially her husband. She always took her walk with Christ seriously and served her husband constantly. This was such an encouragement to Him that he also became a serving giving person.

When I made my way to the living room, He sat me down in his best chair, and said, "Here put your feet up!" He pulled his lever and kicked me back in style. Then he looked down at my feet and noticed a hole in my sock. So He ran up the stairs without a word. To my dismay this man came waltzing down to me armed with a pair of expensive and very comfortable socks.

"Oh you don't have to do that!" I said.

"Nonsense" He replied as he knelt down and peeled off my socks.

"These are comfortable and you should wear them!"

And he put his own socks on me.

Again you could think that these people were just trying to be good hosts, but according to their son's testimony it wasn't the case. They were always caring, kind and giving. Their actions greatly encouraged my friend. He always LOVED visiting his dad. He felt closer to His father through the kindness he saw. It

deeply encouraged him and made him want to do the same in his life. His father was able to use kindness to draw his son close to him. But with that same kindness he would firmly admonish his son according to his need. And in all of this his son deeply respected him.

Kindness is something we should always be growing in. A little bit of kindness can go a long way. It refreshes a weary soul, and encourages a person to go and do likewise. Kindness sparks a fire in a person's heart. It inspires them to do good and not evil. By showing kindness we can turn others to righteousness. This is exactly what Jesus did. As we hear in the song "kindness" performed by Chris Tomlin: "It's your kindness Lord that leads us to repentance, your favor Lord is our desire." (This is coming from romans 2:4)

It's the goodness and kindness of Jesus Christ that leads us to salvation. This is because His kindness convicts us. Without kindness we could never be saved. But even as I said to you before, hospitality and kindness give a person a reputation.

I have met thousands of people over the past six years since that happened. But I only met this couple once and I still remember their kindness after spending only one day with them. I can't even remember their names, but I remember their kindness.

I was very weary at the time, and they refreshed and encouraged me. So much so, that I am still encouraged by them six years later.

Take the time to grow in love and kindness. Love covers a multitude of sins and kindness leads us to repentance. It can save the unbeliever, and encourage the believer.

Continuing in the fruits, as we discussed goodness is found by walking in and practicing love. We can obtain perfect moral goodness by growing in love toward each other and the Lord. If we're loving and kind, gentleness will also take its course. It's not much effort after showing kindness to be gentle as well.

Joy, peace, longsuffering and faithfulness go hand in hand. When we deal with a contentious person we need to learn a little forbearance and have longsuffering. If we get slammed by life and wind up in a difficult trial we begin to grow in longsuffering. Long suffering means exactly what it sounds like. Learning to "suffer long" and still be patient.

When we run into trials it can be difficult to be patient for deliverance. But we

need to learn to be patient with God through hardship. He has promised to save us, and He does so in every aspect of life. But we need to take the time to remain faithful through longsuffering and wait on God by faith for deliverance. People who lack in patience with God, often get mad at God. God is always perfectly loving, so how can we get mad at Him? For that matter it isn't a good idea to get mad at God because He's terrifyingly powerful, and perfectly just.

So in trials we see that faithfulness and longsuffering work hand in hand. When we believe with all our hearts that God will deliver us, this leads us to peace. Can you have perfect peace in trials? If not then you need growth! Even Paul was at peace in the ship which was tossed by the raging sea. He ate, drank, and rested. He had faith in God that all would be well in the end. And his boldness encouraged the crew to take heart.

When we have peace we learn that there is nothing to fear. When we have peace we begin to find joy in our trials. As we read in the scriptures:

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” 1Th 5:16-18

This is what we are learning in this book to do: “pray without ceasing.” But can you also rejoice always? Even in trials? And give thanks always? Even in trials? Can you give thanks for the trials? As it says, “in everything give thanks.”

I once heard of a professional skydiver who was doing a test jump. He deployed one of his chutes but suddenly everything got tangled. When that happened his chutes threw him in circles. He was whipping about in circles for almost three minutes straight. He attempted to deploy his reserve chute but it ended up tangled to. Nothing was stopping him from his horrifying fall to death, he had nothing left to save him. As he was falling he noticed that he was going to land in a vineyard. There are metal stakes in vineyards that hold the vines up, which would prove disastrous for him in the end. But as he fell, he miraculously landed on the soil, next to a metal stake. As he lay there, he was in tremendous pain from the fall. Somehow he survived but now He was seriously hurting. When he realized how much he hurt he began rejoicing! “I'm hurting really really bad, that's a good sign!” He said joyfully to himself.

He found himself immediately rejoicing in his suffering because He knew that his pain meant life was ahead of him.

When we receive trials God doesn't send them on us to harm us but to bless us. A trial is a blessing in disguise meant to give us life. It appears to be harmful in



the beginning, but what it leaves behind is nearness to God.

In my own trials it was difficult to grasp the concept of giving thanks. Nearly two years ago, I was poisoned and almost died. It damaged my nervous system in a way that it affected my heart. It all happened in one day. The day before I was in perfect health and could run up a mountain if I wanted to. The next day I struggled with heart problems and could hardly walk across the hospital room.

I had several bad reactions to heart medicines that doctors gave me and it led me to an even worse condition. In the end I was so sick that I was sent off to a specialist hospital to be scanned for tumors and tested for cancer. But after having three seizures induced by medicine and stress, they turned and found the real cause of my illness.

All this caused me a lot of anxiety and stress. I struggled with frequent panic attacks and had to figure out how to function with anxiety. The voice of God in my life became harder and harder to discern. It was so hard to abide daily at His feet and to focus on His presence. But through it all it taught me a lot about His grace, and it gave me peace. I found myself thankful for my curse, because it made me closer to the Lord. And that is the whole point to trials. That's why God gives them to you. To stretch you and grow you, that you might find yourself nearer to the One who loves you most.

Yet it took me almost dying three times, having three seizures, and being sicker than a dog to figure this out. In the midst of all of this I had to learn to thank God for it.

I had to learn to be thankful in my sickness even though I was still in my twenties and could hardly walk across a room. I had to learn to give glory to God in it and count it all as His goodness for my life. It has taught me one of the greatest lessons of life: To have joy in the midst of deep suffering, and thank God for it all.

I'm a lot better now but it's still hard. God has given me peace and grace in my hardest times, and the worst is now long since over.

But I want to encourage you in all of this to find joy in your trials. God gives them to you for your good. He gives them to you because they are necessary for eternal life. Trials are a means to a greater good. They are the desert hills we need to walk over to get to greener pasture.

Trials are a blessing and meant to drive you toward eternal life. There is nothing

that comes your way that God doesn't throw at you in love. Even if it doesn't make sense, just remember it doesn't have to, He's God. We don't understand Him anyway. So learn joy in your hardship, because God gives it to you out of love.

In an example with the apostles, we read in the book of acts that the apostles were severely persecuted. At one point Peter and the others were being judged before the Pharisees. Gamaliel the man who mentored Paul as a Pharisee, rose up and spoke. He cautioned the council to consider their actions well because the council may be resisting God. Then the scriptures went on to say:

“And they agreed with him, and when they had called for the apostles and beaten *them*, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. So they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name.” acts 5:40-41

So the apostles were beaten unrightfully and left their presence rejoicing over it. If you were beaten black and blue could you throw your hands up and say, “Hurray I got beat up for Jesus!”

It's a difficult thing to rejoice in trials, but it gives us peace and teaches us longsuffering. Patience teaches us gentleness and gentleness causes us to have self-control.

Lastly but not least this leads us to self-control. If we love the Lord we need to learn to curb the appetite of the flesh. We need to feed the spirit and let the flesh starve. Not literally starve it, but starve it of its desires. By surrendering your will, you'll learn to 'starve the flesh' and feed the soul.

This is the essence of growing in the Spirit: learning to sit daily at His feet, to hear from him. As we grow we will leave the will of the flesh behind to pick up the newness of the spirit. We will learn to apply the fruits of the Spirit and obey His voice.

The Prayer,

“Lord grow me in the Holy Spirit. Help me Lord to daily apply your fruits. Strengthen me to overcome my sin and my flesh. Grow me in your grace that I may have peace and be justified. Teach me how to walk in You daily, that I may be everything that You want me to be.”

The Lord's Answer,

“Sit close to Me. Sit close by My side. I have much to share with you. Learn to be at My feet. I will grow you, and deliver you from all things. Rejoice in Me always. All things I bring on you are for your own good. I do all things out of perfect love for you, and nothing slips My attention. I know your deepest desire, and your utmost need.

I will supply you with what you need to please Me. Only surrender to My guiding hand, and learn to abide daily in My Spirit. Practice the fruit of the Spirit and you will practice My godliness. It will bless your life, and bless it abundantly. You can never learn to prosper until you first learn to prosper in My Spirit.”

# Day Five Prayer Five

## *Growth In Character*

There are different kinds of growth. Even in a plant we know that there are leaves, flowers, fruit, branches, roots, and stems. Each part needs growth and each part grows differently, yet communally. It has different parts, but they grow as one unit.

If the plant grew many branches but never expanded its stem it would fall over and die. If it grew only roots, it would just take up soil and be a waste of space. If it grew really tall and didn't grow roots the slightest wind or the smallest trial would topple it over and kill it.

If the plant were to grow many branches and bear much fruit, but have few roots, the resulting fruit would be bitter or sour and immature. If the roots grew far and wide and the branches stretched out to heaven and the flowers came in everywhere, but it doesn't set any fruit, the plant is worthless.

Much like the olive tree Jesus cursed because it bore no fruit in maturity.

“And seeing a fig tree by the road, He came to it and found nothing on it but leaves, and said to it, ‘Let no fruit grow on you ever again.’ Immediately the fig tree withered away.” Mat 21:19

Olive trees are harvested in fall, but this was in the spring time seeing that it occurred within one week before His crucifixion. Even though the tree was out of season He still expected fruit. These things are obviously symbolic for our learning.

We are like that tree. If we aren't growing fruit to maturity that pleases Him we will receive a curse. But to grow true and real fruit it requires one to grow in every area of life, even as a plant needs growth in every aspect to bear much fruit. Although every part needs to grow, all growth goes hand in hand because it is still just one plant.

Another area of growth we need is in character. As we receive trials and learn to grow in the spirit through them, it also develops our character. It help us be stable minded and Christ like. Having good character in Christ helps us remain level-headed through trials and hardships.

Areas of character development coincide with spiritual. Areas such as temperance (self-control), gentleness, patience (longsuffering). But there are some other areas such as growth in wisdom, in sober mindedness, holy speech and godliness.

As we learn temperance we learn to be sober minded. If we let our thoughts run a rampage it can lead our minds to destructive sinful places. Your thoughts may end up dwelling and lingering on sinful things. Satan loves this, and why? Because every outward sin begins with inward thoughts. So I would like to encourage you to take control of your mind and overcome evil thinking by letting your thoughts rest on the Lord. This is how we love the Lord with all our mind.

Gentleness comes from having a patient heart, and to be longsuffering suggest that you are willing to suffer. Although you don't desire it you are willing. Jesus was long suffering during His mockings and crucifixion. He didn't desire it, but was willing to go through it. In the garden of gethsemane He prayed,

"O My Father, if this cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done." Mat 26:42

He was willing to obey and suffer even though He didn't want to. This is the point we are trying to make: Be willing to suffer. You need to be willing to suffer persecution, trials and tribulation and all manner of hardship in following Christ. As it is written,

"You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ." 2Ti 2:3

"No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of *this* life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier." 2Ti 2:4

We can never be tempered if we aren't willing to suffer. We all want to be strong in the Lord, but strength requires a strong will to overcome and obey. Our will is to submit to His will, even when things get really hard. To be willing to suffer for Christ requires a will of iron. In order to have a will of iron first we must be tempered like steel.

Anyone who knows metal making knows that in order to temper steel you need to heat it up above its critical temperature. This process of heating we can liken to the fiery trials we endure. As hardship overcomes us and the temperature rises beyond what we think we can endure, we can have confidence that God will cool us down again by His deliverance. The end result is a learning lesson for wisdom

in Christ. The more we grow in wisdom, the more we grow in character and become stronger. Temperance makes steel strong just as trials teach you to lean on the strength of Christ.

When we grow in wisdom and sober mindedness we find godliness entering our hearts. As we become godlier we desire our speech to be edifying and seasoned with salt. Every word comes from the inward place just as every sin does. When we grow to be tempered in godliness the inward place receives a cleansing. The end result is holiness in every aspect of life. Including holy speech.

The Prayer,

“Lord I surrender my heart. I lay down my life and my desire for comfortability to be willing to suffer. God I’m willing to suffer for growth and for Your name’s sake. If it is not necessary for me to go through trials may I always be spared from them. But if for my growth I need them, please give me what I need to become pleasing to you.”

The Lord’s Answer,

“Wow... You’re so beautiful! I can’t believe it! Your heart is becoming so beautiful so quickly! There are few things that make Me marvel, and fewer things that take My breath away. But you My beloved are seeking a life of true faith and reliance on Me. And you’re willing to count the cost and pay for it. That is so breath taking!

Beloved I will admonish you. I will stretch you and grow you. I will discipline you and discipline hurts. But I don’t do these things to hurt you. I do them to bless you and grow you closer to Me. Let Me love you now and give you what you need for eternal life.”

# Day Six Prayer Six

## *Prayer For Wisdom*

“The LORD by wisdom founded the earth; By understanding He established the heavens; By His knowledge the depths were broken up, And clouds drop down the dew. My son, let them not depart from your eyes— Keep sound wisdom and discretion; So they will be life to your soul And grace to your neck.” Pro 3:19-33

In wisdom, God founded the heavens and the earth. By His knowledge He framed life and put it in you and me. By His own discretion He filled space with stars, the skies with birds, and the seas with innumerable creatures.

God knows everything. He is the ultimate source of wisdom. Without Him no one is wise at all.

Scientists today are still trying to figure out how He created everything. It's been over 5670 years and humanity still can't figure out what God has done. And if we can't figure out what God has done, how much less can we understand what He's doing now in our lives? But with a willing heart and blind faith we should submit to His leading in our lives. The wisdom in this world is nothing before God, because His understanding is unsearchable as we read,

“Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the LORD, The Creator of the ends of the earth, Neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable.” Isa 40:28

And as it is also written,

“Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!” Rom 11:33

God is past finding out. We on our own steam can never, and have never been able to understand God. He's too brilliant and marvelous.

Scientists look to things like quantum mechanics to figure out the formation of the universe. “Where does the atom come from?” They ask themselves.

They talk of material made of energy such as “quanta,” quarks and smaller particles. Some of these particles are known about, and some are totally unknown. It's too deep and complex and unsearchable. Although they are

gaining ground on an atom, it can't explain the whole universe. The more they search out wisdom the less they find it. Some scientists in their worldly wisdom, say there is no God. Their pursuit for greater knowledge has led them to utter insanity. As if there is no God? Even Albert Einstein who denied there was a God in the end couldn't deny it any more. He being Jewish was mad at God for the holocaust, and thus declared he was an Agnost. But truth pressed too hard in his heart and he couldn't take it anymore. Even as we read in the scriptures

“The fool has said in his heart, "*There is no God.*"Psa 14:1

The point to be made here is that wisdom cannot be found by searching it in and of ourselves; even wisdom in doctrine. It can lead us to insane results that turn people from the true gospel of Jesus Christ.

The only way to find wisdom is to go to its source. When a man seeks water in the wilderness does he syphon it out of a tree? Or dig a hole down to the source? He goes to the source no doubt and uses his bucket to obtain all he desires.

Even so we need to go to the source of wisdom if we want to draw it out. God, of course is that source, but how do we draw it out?

As it is written,

“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.” Jas 1:5-8

God is our source for wisdom and our bucket to draw it out is faith. We draw it out by a constant pursuit of faith in reading, meditating and memorizing. As we read the Word, we look for the things that speak to us. Things that are alive and jumping out of the pages. This is the Holy Spirit speaking to us. He is telling us the things He wants us to know, to keep and to practice.

In order to keep them for later use we need to take it to heart to sit and memorize. As we memorize we need to stop trying to do it of the flesh and just pray and believe. Ask the Lord to help you memorize it, and as you begin to memorize put your faith in Him that He will help you. In time you'll find it easier to memorize. So much so that you will memorize entire books and not just a few little verses.



At least that is what God has led me to do. And I believe He is calling you to do it as well, that you may be devoted to a life of wisdom in Christ. Wisdom and the Word are a firm foundation that will keep you from every wind of doctrine. Rather than being a boat on a raging sea, you will be like the lighthouse firmly planted on the rock. You will no longer be tossed to and fro, but be a light for others to keep a steady course. You will not only be secure in your understanding, when the wind of false doctrine comes your way, but also you will become a beacon of light for others to see by. God will use you to help others in their walk, and bless you every step of the way.

But that God is very pleased by those who seek wisdom is evident. Looking at Solomon we see that he humbled himself and asked for wisdom rather than anything else, and God blessed him incredibly for his request. As it is written,

Then God said to Solomon: "Because this was in your heart, and you have not asked riches or wealth or honor or the life of your enemies, nor have you asked long life—but have asked wisdom and knowledge for yourself, that you may judge My people over whom I have made you king—wisdom and knowledge *are* granted to you; and I will give you riches and wealth and honor, such as none of the kings have had who *were* before you, nor shall any after you have the like." 2Ch 1:11-12

God blessed him, and He will bless you also. But who gave Solomon wisdom? The Lord. Who did Solomon seek for it? The Lord. Seek wisdom and pray for it diligently and God will be pleased in you.

The Prayer,

“God I know I need wisdom. Help me Lord to grow in it. Give me much wisdom, no matter the cost. I said I surrender myself to you in all things. Even if I need trials to grow I submit to Your guiding hand. If I don’t need such then give me wisdom by the best resource. Lead me in all things Lord, and above all please give me Your wisdom that I may have the mind of Christ.”

The Lord’s Answer,

“It is absolutely My will to give you wisdom. Don’t even say to Me ‘Your will be done.’ I am telling you the truth it is always My will! If you ask for it, I will grant it. If you pray it, you will get it. Period.

I am determined to bless you! You're My sweet beautiful child. I will make you to know My ways which are unsearchable. I will prosper you in My Spirit and in My wisdom. I will take care of you, and give you a future and a hope. I will teach you how to walk in hope by the wisdom I'll give you. Only submit to My guiding hand. Whether things are difficult or blessed.

Remember you are betrothed to Me! Be found faithful in Me always! In the better times or the worst times. In riches and poverty. In sickness and in health, to love Me and cherish Me, forsaking all others and yourself until death makes us closer.

I swear to you today that I will love you in all these things and give you the wisdom you pray for. Be faithful to Me, I Am faithful to you always, and you shall be blessed in the abundance of My peace.”

# Day Seven Prayer Seven

## *Prayer To Prosper In Truth*

Jesus said “I am the way the truth and the life.” Jn 14:6

If we seek Christ we must seek truth in all things. He is truth and to seek Him is to seek truth. Not only truth in others but in ourselves.

We cannot even be considered humble if we can't confess the truth of our weaknesses. We need to seek truth in all things no matter the cost. There is too much deceit in the world, and our own hearts are the greatest center of that deceit. Sometimes we deceive ourselves in order to justify pleasing ourselves. We know when things are wrong, because of conviction but we constantly tell ourselves, “things will be okay.”

Bondage is an example of this. There are many forms of bondage, be it sexuality, alcoholism, television or video games, etc. What we devote our lives to is our God, and if we are devoting most of our time to things that are not Christ, we have an idol. But sometimes we fall in love with sin because it feels good and thus we try to justify it.

There is no justification for submitting to things that oppose Christ. All bondage begins with a small distraction. It is the same with every idol in our lives. But this is where truth comes in. Before we fall in bondage we need to be honest with ourselves and admit we know that what we are doing is wrong.

If you can't do that in the first stages of sin, a small distraction away from God will turn into a daily devotion to something else. Satan loves to sneak these kinds of things in on us. He being the father of all lies, plants a seed in our hearts of self-deceit. He does this that we would either ignore conviction to continue to sin, or justify our sin to think we can still be saved while we insult the grace of God.

“It's okay if I do this now... I can repent later and God will forgive me.” We say to ourselves.

Do you see the seed of deceit? We should never sin! God hates it! Does it still happen? Yes, and it tapers off as we grow in the Lord. But to tell ourselves it's okay is dangerous, and can result in a pattern of sin.

I would like to encourage you to examine your own heart today. Have you been practicing things you shouldn't be and are justifying it? By doing so you are creating a foundation for false doctrine. Demons plant the seeds of self-deceit in our hearts that we should practice evil. If we practice evil then we have become evil. As it is written,

“But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.” 2Ti 3:13

Not that you or I are impostors, but if we continually justify things that are wrong we will become an imposter and an evil person. All false doctrine is from the devil and condemnable to hell. If you're seeking truth and are believing a wrong thing, of course God will have grace, because He knows that in time He will change what you believe to conform your heart and mind to His. And Why? Because you seek truth!

But if a person does not seek truth and just skids by in life constantly, God won't have grace before long. Why? Because such a person doesn't care about their own walk and won't take their relationship with Him seriously.

That is why it is so important for you to know what you are supposed to be doing in Christ and what you are supposed to be believing. Do not be one who admits truth, but doesn't seek to live by it. Live by it to please Christ.

I once knew a woman who loved the Lord. She had several children but one child fell into sin. Rather than rebuking him, she started changing her beliefs. “Oh you can't fall away, God has grace on sin, and He loves us sin and all. He accepts us just the way we are.” That wasn't her heart from the beginning but as her son began a pattern of sin she justified it rather than sharing the truth of falling away to strike fear in his heart. He listened to his mother and justified his own sin. He fell into drugs, fornication, alcohol, and every work of the world. He ended up dating a pregnant married stripper at a club he constantly went to.

This was a young man in Christ, but because his mother lied to herself, she ended up lying to him to his destruction. Every time I saw her, -EVERY TIME- she was convicted about her beliefs. She would always ask someone to confirm to her that her son is still saved and he didn't fall away, because she can't accept it if he did.

I have watched another person who was passionate for God, born again and seriously on fire. Through time he made a bad decision or two and lied to his own heart. He began justifying sin, and in the passing years he resisted God, and

fell away. This man was known well by my family, and I know that it's true, seeing that he is my brother in law.

A little lie leads to a whole lot of sin. Satan planted one sin in Eve's heart. The same sin I'm talking about: "It won't hurt you to eat the fruit of sin! It will give you what you desire!" This false doctrine is always the root of sin. It comes from a little self-deceit and justification. Even if it is just a onetime sin, anything that is consciously done, requires us to have a seed planted. "It won't hurt you, it'll feel good!" If you begin to think of repentance and sin during the heat of the moment, then the lie turns into, "You can always repent later it's okay. Do it now!"

Always examine your heart in everything. Make certain that you're continuing in godliness. Or as the ancient Grecian saying goes, "know thyself." But you can't possibly know yourself until you first have the humility to admit to yourself your own weaknesses and faults. We can't know ourselves unless we are honest with ourselves.

This prayer is a dedication to seeking truth, especially truth in your own heart, that you may know how to abstain from sin.

The Prayer,

"Lord prosper me in your truth that I may abstain from every form of wickedness. Lead me and guide me by your heart. I know that You are the truth and that there is no other way to the Father except through You. I love You so I want to seek You for who You are. I want to know my own heart that I can have the humility to admit my weaknesses. Conform my heart to Yours and make me sensitive to Your Spirit."

The Lord's Answer,

"Before you can ever know Me first you must know yourself. When you first come to Me you are made aware of sin. This is the beginning of knowing yourself. Know your weakness and so find My strength fulfilled in you by your faith.

Walk in Me and I in you. You will find My truth, I shall send My Spirit to prosper you in the way you go. He shall guide you into all truth. Only you need to be submissive to His lead and obedient to His voice."



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## About The Author

Adam is a preacher, teacher and Christian author. He is a devoted husband and father of 3 boys. Through His travels he's seen the need for a new awakening and a new revival: A revival of the heart. Come join Adam on this journey of redemption and experience God like never before!



## I'd Love To Hear From You!

If you have any questions or comments or if you need prayer or guidance please feel free to contact me at any time at my website: [www.adamhouse.com](http://www.adamhouse.com) just click on the “contact Adam” button and send me a message.

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