

# Introduction

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God's Word is living and powerful. People who know God and read His Word often already understand that. But what many of us may not realize is how powerful our prayers can be when we include God's Word *in* them. Whenever we do that, it not only gives us a solid foundation of truth upon which to base our prayers, but it also grows our faith even as we are praying. The reason to include Scripture in our prayers is not to remind God of what He said. He already knows and He does not forget. It is *we* who need to be reminded because we *do* forget. Or we can succumb to doubt. Or perhaps we have not truly understood what the Bible says. Or maybe we have not considered certain verses of Scripture as being applicable to specific subjects about which we want to pray. Whatever the reason, weaving God's truth into our prayers is life-changing.

It is my prayer that after you have read the Scriptures and devotions in this book, and have prayed the prayers that follow, you will be inspired to include Scripture in your own individual prayers as often as you can. Even if you don't specifically quote a verse word for word—although that is very effective—having your prayer *inspired* by God's Word is powerful as well.

As you read and pray through this book, God will surely impress upon your heart to pray about other specific things, or He may give you knowledge, wisdom, and insight that you want to write down. If so, there are pages at the end of the book for that purpose. You will be amazed at how writing down what you hear from God—or want to *say* to God—will bless and strengthen you. Plus, it delights Him to hear from you that you love *Him* and His *Word*. And pleasing God is the best reward of all.

*Stormie Omartian*

# The Power of Praying for Others

i Read and Consider i

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*Colossians 1:9-14*

*“For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding” (Colossians 1:9).*

**F**or all the people we care about—parents, children, a spouse, friends, family, neighbors, coworkers, or people in need around the world—one of the best things we can do for them is pray. We may not be able to provide them with good health, financial security, or protection from all harm. But we can pray that *God* will heal them, provide for them, and keep them safe.

The promise to pray for others is one of the finest gifts we can give. Every time we seek the presence of God and the release of His power on behalf of someone else, great things happen. It is the most effective way we can touch others and make a difference in their lives.

The most important thing we can pray about for others is that they will know God better and that He will help them understand His will, grow in spiritual wisdom, and live lives that honor Him. We can pray that they will become more like Him and bear the fruit of His Spirit.

When we pray for others, we are asking God to make His presence known in their lives. We are asking Him to open their heart so they can hear from Him. That doesn't mean there will always be an immediate response. Sometimes it can take days, weeks, months, or even years. But our prayers are never lost or meaningless. If we are praying, something is happening in the lives of those for whom we pray, whether we see it or not. Everything that needs to happen in our lives and in the lives of our loved ones cannot happen without the presence and power of God. Prayer invites and ignites both.

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*Lord, I pray for the people You have put in my life and on my heart. Fill them with wisdom and understanding and the knowledge of Your will so that they will stay on the path You have for them. I pray they will learn to hear Your voice and come to know You better, so that they can have a closer walk with You. I pray that You will help me to do as Paul did in Your Word and not stop praying for people. Help me to keep praying, even when I don't yet see the answers to my prayers manifesting in their lives.*

*In Jesus' name I pray.*

# Praying *on* Behalf of People

┆ Read and Consider ┆

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*Exodus 8:8-11,28-29; 9:27-30; 10:16-19*

*“Pharaoh quickly summoned Moses and Aaron and said, ‘I have sinned against the LORD your God and against you. Now forgive my sin once more and pray to the LORD your God to take this deadly plague away from me’” (Exodus 10:16-17).*

Have you ever tried to share your faith with an unbelieving friend, coworker, or employer, only to have that person demonstrate disinterest or even downright hostility? Those around you may reject your concern for them and ignore their own need for a Savior. However, if a crisis comes, those same people will allow you to pray for them. They may even seek you out—asking for your prayers, knowing you have a “hotline” to heaven.

This becomes extremely difficult when we are called to pray for those who have hurt us. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus instructed His followers to disregard the conventional wisdom of the time regarding enemies and practice love through intercession instead. “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven” (Matthew 5:43-45).

Pharaoh put all his faith in the ability of his wise men, sorcerers, and magicians to use their secret arts to perform miracles. But when the plagues were clearly “the finger of God,” Pharaoh turned to Moses for help, the one man he knew could truly intercede.

The unbelievers in your world should be able to tell by your life that you are a praying person and that they can depend on you to intercede for them with the only One who can truly make a difference.

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*God, help me to learn to pray in power. Increase my faith to believe for the answers to my prayers. Enable me to become an intercessor for others—especially those who do not know You. I pray that everyone around me will be able to recognize by my life that I am a person of great faith and power in prayer, and that they can trust in the God to whom I pray. Although Pharaoh—in Your Word—pridefully resisted You and Your messenger, Moses, it was actually Moses whom Pharaoh turned to when he had been humbled. I pray that unbelievers will see so much of Your love in me that they will ask me to pray for them and to tell them more about You.*

*In Jesus' name I pray.*

# Finding Faith *to Wait for the Answer*

¡ Read and Consider ¡

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*Daniel 10:1-14*

*“Then he continued, ‘Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them. But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days’” (Daniel 10:12-13).*

**H**ave you ever waited anxiously for a promised letter or package to arrive, only to have days, weeks, or maybe even months pass by with no sign of it? How do you know for certain that it was placed in the mail in the first place or that it wasn't delivered to the wrong address?

When it comes to prayer, most of us will have times when we wonder whether the answer to our request has been “lost.” Did God hear us at all, and is He planning to respond?

The book of Daniel contains one of the most encouraging yet sobering conversations recorded in the Bible when it comes to receiving an answer to prayer. Daniel had been faithfully fasting and praying for weeks without seeing any response. After 21 days, he had a vision of an angelic being who appeared to him and told him the reason for the delay: A spiritual battle was being waged in the heavens. Daniel was told that the messenger had been sent in response to his prayers from the first day, but he had been detained by opposition from “the prince of the Persian kingdom,” a reference to an evil supernatural force. When Daniel persisted in prayer, help was sent to the first messenger in the form of the archangel Michael, and the messenger finally reached Daniel with a word from God for the future.

What an encouragement this is for us! God has promised to hear our prayers when we come to Him in faith, but we need to remember that Satan may throw obstacles in the way of our receiving the answers God has sent. What are we to do? Continue to pray! The prayers of a righteous man or woman are powerful and effective (James 5:16). Don't give up when the answer doesn't come right away. God hears and will answer. You have His Word on it!

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*Heavenly Father, help me to wait patiently for the answers to my prayers. Increase my faith to know that when I pray, You hear the cries of my heart and will answer in Your perfect timing and Your perfect way.*

*Help me to continue to pray and not give up, no matter how long it takes or how many obstacles the enemy throws in my path. Just as Daniel—in Your Word—prayed and the answer to his prayer was set in motion immediately, yet in the weeks it took for the answer to manifest, Daniel did not stop praying. Help me to not stop praying and not give place to discouragement if I don't see answers right away. Help me to trust that You have heard my prayer and will answer in Your way and in Your perfect timing.*

*In Jesus' name I pray.*