



PRAYER: WHAT
IT IS; HOW TO
DO IT; AND
WHAT TO EXPECT
FROM IT.

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INTRODUCTION

What is prayer? If you ask just about anyone, they will most likely say it is how we talk to God. And you know what? They'd be right!

In truth, prayer is like having your own Bat-Phone, giving you an immediate and direct connection to God.

Prayers can be for health, healing, material needs, even guidance for life changing decisions.

I can pray for myself, I can pray for you, you can pray for me and together we can pray for someone else. We can pray for blessings, or as David and some of the Prophets did, we can pray for God to exact His judgment and vengeance on sinners.

Prayer is, ultimately, how we communicate what we desire to the One who is able to fulfill all our needs and wants.

This book is a compilation of different messages I have posted on my blog, *Messianic Moment*, over the past 4 years or so. And, in the spirit of the subject matter of this book, it is my prayer that you find what is written here to be educational, edifying and entertaining.

(FROM CHAPTER 1)

HOW LONG DOES PRAYER HAVE TO BE?

How many times have you heard people pray and pray...and pray...and pray...and pray? "Father God" this, and "Father God" that, and "Father God" these, and (even more) "Father God" something.

I think He knows who you are talking to.

I also think that prayer doesn't have to be long and drawn out to be effective. In fact, in Numbers (B'Midbar) 12:13, when Miryam was struck with leprosy, here was Moshe's big sister, who risked her life following him down the Nile when he was in a basket as a baby (Nile Crocodiles bask on the river's edge where she was walking, and they can get to be 12 feet long and weigh over a ton- yes, she risked her life for him), and when he saw her, white as death, did he cry out in a long and Shakespearean manner? No, he simply said, "Oh Lord, please heal her!" That was it. Five words and God said He would heal her.

Solomon made a long and beautiful prayer when he dedicated the Temple. Even though it was long, it was inclusive of what he was asking for- that God not just bless and sanctify the house they made for His presence, but that in the future when Jews all over the world prayed in the direction of the Temple (prophetic,

wasn't it?) that God would listen. And Solomon went through the different problems we may have to cause us to pray to God for relief. That was what most of the prayer was about, which is why I said it was inclusive.

We don't need to pray until we run out of things to say. I hear, so often (haven't you?), people searching for things to add to their prayer. It's sad, to me. Why can't they have the faith that God knows what we want, and just ask for that? If we were to intercede for everyone we know, and ask for everything that we think God would want us to ask for, we won't have time to live any of it. When Yeshua taught us how to pray (Matthew 6:11) He said to just ask for our daily bread. If I can make a quickie Drash on this, I would say it's not just today's bread we should ask for, trusting in Ha Shem (God, or literally 'The Name') to provide for tomorrow when it comes, but that we should only ask for what is needed, now. With prayer, that means don't go on and on, asking for this person, and that person, and for this, and for that, ad infinitum. Just use the **KISS** rule: **Keep It Simple, Schlemiel!** Pray about what is most important to you. Yeshua also tells us later in Matthew that God knows what we need and what we want.

Personally, I think He wants us to pray, even though He knows what we want, so we can show not just faithful belief that He is listening, but to show that we can be

humble in our requests, and that we don't ask for everything to make ourselves look "holy". I am not holy, you are not holy. God says to "be thou holy, for I am holy" but it is not possible for humans. That isn't so much a command as a goal. We can reach it, but only thanks to Yeshua and the Ruach HaKodesh (Holy Spirit) that dwells in those who have accepted God's gift of Grace.

Well, I would be a hypocrite if I kept on at this topic any longer. Keep your prayer simple, keep it honest, and if you don't find the words coming easily and on their own, stop.

When I pray what is truly on my heart, I cry. If you pray and find yourself crying, well, THAT'S what I'm talkin' about!!

(FROM CHAPTER 2)

ARE YOU DEFRAGGING YOUR SPIRITUAL HARD DRIVE?

I am that guy you call when you don't know why your computer isn't doing what you expect it to do. One of my personal peeves is that people work with their computers all day, and it's almost impossible to find a job, other than manual labor, that doesn't require you to have a modicum of skills when operating a computer.

Yet, all I hear all day long is, "I just don't know anything about computers."

You know to check the oil, water and tire pressure in your car, you know to oil the iron cooking pan, to change the filters in your air conditioning system (you should know these things, you know!), but people don't know how to care for their computers! Think about it: you can take a bus to work if you don't care for your car and if your pots and pans are rusty and filthy you can order food in, but if your computer isn't working you can't do your job. And what happens to people who don't do their jobs? Do you think it's important to know enough to (at least) maintain the computer in fairly good working order?

One of the things that is important to keeping the computer running well (not so much with Windows 7 and newer operating systems) is defragging the hard drive.

All this is, essentially, is removing all the space between the bits of data (all zero's

and one's) so that all the little bits line up neatly. This saves space and makes searching for the data faster.

So, nu? What's any of this got to do with my spiritual life?

We hear so much stuff every day; there is so much information in the world, and so much of it is so easily absorbed through web sites, e-books, radio, cable TV news that is 24/7. Yet, out of all this information, there is so very little of it which you can trust. We get all types of fertilizer coming into our brains, and to sort it all out is nearly impossible. We hear televangelists telling us to touch the screen so they can heal us, our own Rabbi's, Pastors, Ministers and Priests telling us what we should believe because this is what our religion teaches us, and then we have the everyday people, telling us that these laws were for health reasons, those don't count because the world is changed (although they forget that God doesn't change), and the worst part is the Discovery Channel. Although Discovery, History and TLC are some of my favorite channels, I never watch anything they do regarding the Bible or religious history. That's because they are TV, the air waves are controlled by the Enemy (he is called the Prince of the Air, remember?) and their point, always, is to make God seems like a fantasy, explaining away His wonderful works and interventions and making science the real cause for celebrity.

All of these bits and bytes of data going into our brains, every day. And we can't really stop it, unless we wear blindfolds and stuff our ears with wax. That would give us some peace, but it makes getting anything done really, really hard to do.

That's why we need to defrag our spiritual hard drive. We need to clean out and delete the stuff that is wasteful, non-edifying and confusing. Then, after a good clean-up of the temp files and deleted items folder, we need to re-arrange the data that we want to keep. We do this by getting back to basics (hmmmm...nice title for a book- check out the one I wrote) and re-establishing our relationship with God by simply sitting, in a quiet place, turning off all the data-streaming *drek* in the area, and letting God come in and clean up our spiritual hard drive. Let the Ruach take over- you can pray, think of heaven, concentrate on your favorite scripture, meditate on His word (King David did that often) or (one of my favorites) create a list of all the things you are grateful to God for giving you. Start with your birth and work your way forward.

We need to keep it simple (the **KISS** Rule) when we worship. No fancy-schmancy prayers; get real, people- we don't live in the 17th Century so don't pray like you are reading from the Kings James Bible. How can you be pouring your heart out to the Lord when you need to concentrate on getting all the fancy words right? God

sees the heart, He knows what we want and (thank God) He gives us what we need, so just let Him do what He does best. Let His shalom fill your soul.

Be careful, also, what you download. The best way to keep a computer running well is to "feed" it correctly- no viruses, no malware, be careful what you buy, and watch where you "surf." Always have a good anti-virus running that keeps up to date. This translates, spiritually, into reading the Bible every day. The best antivirus, in this case 'anti-Satan software', is the Word of God. Read it every day to keep your spiritual hard-drive clean. Be careful of what you download means when you are watching the TV specials or reading extra-Biblical books and magazines about where the Ark is, who Jesus really was, and all the other apparently useful shows to help us understand the truth about God and the Bible, be very cautious and wary. Never take what they say as valid or truthful, and check it out against the Bible. If there is archaeological proof, or at least evidence, of a biblical event, that is fine, but listen carefully. I have rarely gotten more than 10 minutes into one of these shows before I start to hear the message between the lines of script. That message is (almost) always that there is some physiological reason for the event, that science can explain it and their "experts" are almost always agnostic in their approach. The one or two "religious" people that will give

glory to God are made to seem like fools. By the end of the show miracles and Glory to God are reduced to seismic events and explainable anomalies.

Science thinks that because it can explain something and understand how it happens that means God didn't have anything to do with it. That's something we have to overcome- the thinking that says if it can be explained it isn't a miracle or a divine intervention. God created everything, including science. So why can't He use what He created to intervene? How many cancer patients die after undergoing every known treatment type? Yet, others go into remission and the cancer never returns. They're both humans, they're both treated the same way, yet it works in one and not in the other. And no one can explain that, but no one sees the cure as a miracle. It's science, it's modern medicine, it's *explainable* so it can't be divine. Oy! There is so much garbage, so many bits and bytes of data that we take in, without even knowing it is happening, and we need to defrag ourselves daily. Meditate, read the Word (best bet for success) and pray to God. Pray simply, pray honestly, and don't try to be different than who you are when you pray. Just pray from your heart, do it without interruption, and get all those little zeros and ones in your spirit back in alignment.

Computers are binomial- it all boils down to a zero or a one. God is also binomial: it's His way or the hell-way. Don't let your spiritual hard drive become corrupted with the viruses and malware of the world; keep it defragged through prayer and keep it clean with a daily install and upgrade of God's word. It's the best anti-Satan software in the universe.

(FROM CHAPTER 4)

BRUCK'S 3 RULES OF PRAYER

Everyone has rules, and I have my own rules for prayer.

Rule #1: God always hears your prayers.

There are places in the Bible where God says He will not hear us. For instance:

1 Samuel 8:18 (*And ye shall cry out in that day because of your king which ye shall have chosen you; and the LORD will not hear you in that day. KJV*);

Isaiah 1:15 (*When you spread out your hands in prayer, I hide my eyes from you; even when you offer many prayers, I am not listening. NIV*);

Jeremiah 7:16 (*So do not pray for this people nor offer any plea or petition for them; do not plead with me, for I will not listen to you. NIV*)

But does this mean God doesn't hear your prayers? I don't think that is what He means- He always hears us, He is just not listening, as in paying attention.

He always hears us, but when we have rejected Him and have sinned so often and so purposefully that we have thrown a wedge between us and God, He will have no option but to ignore our pleas. Think of it this way- we are calling to Him, He hears us but holds up His mighty right arm to our face and says, "Speaketh thou to the hand!"

God always, always, always hears our prayers, but how he acts is His choice. Which brings us to the second rule.

Rule #2: God always answers your prayers.

And sometimes that answer is, "No." As above, God hears you, alright, but decides to answer with silence. Or maybe He will just say, "Nope! Ain't gonna happen." And at other times His answer will be "You got it, babe!" and that answer will be wonderful, confirming, and blissfully full of blessings. Or it may be something totally unexpected, which leads to the last rule of prayer.

Rule #3: The answer usually isn't what you expect or when you expect it, but it will always be just what you need and just when you need it.

God knows what we need better than we do, better than we can, and better than we ever will. And because He is a loving and compassionate Father, Judge and Savior, He will provide not what we want (which is usually not good for us) but what we need. And whereas our timing is usually lousy, God's timing is always perfect because He knows what will happen and when it will happen, so He can make things occur just when they should. We won't always get what we want, and we rarely will get it when we want it, but we will have a much better batting average if we learn to pray more in line with God's plan for us. Look at the prayers of Abraham, Moshe, the Prophets, Yeshua's prayers and those of His Disciples: their prayers were

answered not only when they were asked, but often exactly as they requested.

That's because they were praying for something that was within God's plan. And yet, there were other prayers which were not answered as requested. Take Shaul as an example, in 2nd Corinthians 12:7:

"Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. ⁸ Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me.⁹ But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

Here is one good reason for us to expect God to decide what He will answer and when: God, and God alone, knows the best time to do something and the best time not to do anything, because it is all about Him. Shaul's prayer was for himself, but God turned it into something that gave the glory where it belonged- to God.

God always hears, God always answers, and the answer is rarely what you expect or when you expect it. But it is always perfectly suited to help you and to glorify God. So, keep praying. Just because you don't get the answer you want or expect doesn't mean He didn't answer you. It may be, "Yes, but not yet"; it may be, "No. Now stop bothering me"; and it may be, "As you request, it shall be done." And when we pray in Yeshua's name we will receive what we ask for, **SO LONG AS** what we ask for is

in God's will and glorifies God. If you pray in Yeshua's name to win the lottery, don't be disappointed if you don't, and don't blame God. Winning the lottery isn't what God is about. However, if you pray for salvation for yourself or someone else, God will listen, and He will answer.

I pray every day for the salvation and reconciliation of my children with God, and Donna and I, and that we will be a family centered on God. I know that God will answer my prayer by giving my children every possible opportunity to come to Him, but in the end, it is their choice. God will not force someone to ask for salvation. I pray in Yeshua's name for the salvation of my wife and children, but they have to choose it. God will answer me, I faithfully trust that He will send angels of mercy to them, that He will make sure they have every opportunity to recognize Him, His work in their lives, and that He will protect them from evil, both physical and spiritual. And I know that He hears and He is answering this very moment, but since they have to choose, if they never come to salvation it is not because God didn't hear and answer my prayer.

Make your prayers "God-worthy" by keeping them in line with God's plan for you, as best as you understand what it is. And keep praying- you never know what the answer may be or when the answer will come, but if you pay as close attention to

what God is doing in your life as you want Him to pay attention to your prayer, I believe that you will, eventually, see the answer.

Whatever it is.