



PRAYER

101

the secret place

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This book is dedicated to the next generation of Prayer Generals and Warriors of the Kingdom I pray you arise as the army you are and declare heaven on earth. May you experience the power of prayer to a greater degree than the generations who have preceded you with miracles, signs, wonders, and manifestations of the glory of God.

Love,
@QuiNinaJ

INTRODUCTION

Let us pray,

Father, I thank you for the person reading this book. As we prepare to embark upon this journey of discovering the purpose of prayer, reveal unto us the power of prayer, shift us into a continuous prayer posture and transform our hearts for prayer. We believe that prayer is a privilege granted to us to embrace Your presence, speak to You, and hear from Holy Spirit. Open the eyes of our understanding to be enlightened by the illumination of Your word concerning prayer through every word penned that will follow. In Jesus Name Amen

Let's get in-to-it...

Throughout humanity's existence, we have always had a proclivity and innate awareness of a need to connect to unseen deities through prayer. No matter the deity of choice, somehow, we as humans have an instinct that tells us we must have a form of communication to our perception of the divine. Every form of worship has a form of prayer for every deity that each religion believes in as their god. As Christians, believers of the Holy Bible, we believe prayer is our primary connection to our God. According to our declaration of faith, every believer in God is to have what we call a "prayer life," meaning prayer should be an intricate part of our daily living. As a matter of fact, scripture tells us to pray without ceasing. Unfortunately, somehow as generations went by, we have drifted further and further away from prayer as a lifestyle and state of mind. But I believe a new day is dawning. Not only are we on the verge of a great wave of prayer, but we are also on the cusps of what I am seeing is the greatest harvest of new believers to accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior known to humanity with miracles, healings, signs, wonders, and manifestations of glory attached to an uncommon release of wealth. And prayer is going to get us there. Doesn't it sound awesome? Can you see it? Wow, that would be amazing, wouldn't it? It is definitely possible. My prayer is that this

book, *Prayer 101*, strikes your spirit in such a way that it lights the match in you for such a great move of God.

As you read, expect to receive instructions, experience illumination of the scriptures, and a new revelation and fire for prayer through the teachings of Jesus Christ when he took a moment to mentor His disciples on how to pray. What better way to guarantee your prayer than to pray according to the guidance given by the Son of God, the one whom you pray in the name of. I strongly believe that when one does not have an expressed joy in praying it is primarily because they have not seen its success. I doubt anyone would stop praying if their prayers are noticeably answered. It is only logical to think that if prayer is working and producing results in my life, I would dare not walk away from it. To a believer, prayer is our strengthening agent; it is the secret place we go to be encouraged, recharged, commune, and receive instructions from Our Heavenly Father. Prayer to a Christian is like the phone booth to Clark Kent as he transformed into Superman to fight off all evil that threatened those he loved.

Just in case you are not into superheroes, let me explain, and if you are, just humor me for a moment if you will-with the cliff note version. The main character of Superman, the movie, Clark Kent, whose birth name was Kal-El was born on Krypton to Jor-El and Lara. He ended up with earthly parents after being forced to leave his planet Krypton and later discovered he had special abilities. He was raised by his earthly parents with values and morals and often had to hide his identity. Later he discovered his full strength, but his identity still could not be exposed to the world, so outwardly he would wear unassuming attire so that to the earthly eye, he would appear to be humble, lowly, meek, and even weak. Posing in the disguise of a journalist, he could easily be unnoticed, but when trouble would arise, he would quickly steal away to a secret place (a phone booth, in the older days) and return as a man of unmatched strength.

Prayer does the same for the believer! When we steal away to the place of prayer, that physical place is instantly transformed into our phone booth, our bat cave, our command center. Today that secret place can be your car, office, bathroom at home, a public restroom, or even a mental place and not a physical location. I will explain that later, but the point is tremendous power is made available through the effectual and fervent prayers of the righteous through faith. And it is all available for you to participate in at any time for any reason. There are even those of us who live in a place/state of prayer ready to go before the Father on another's behalf at any given moment.

What is Prayer?

So, what exactly is this praying thing that I am talking about, you may say. Well, prayer, for the believer, is communicating with God. Just as communication is a two-way exchange, so should prayer be. When praying, people tend to turn prayer into a one-sided dialogue where one tells God all about their sorrows and concerns.

It is unfair and delusional to believe a conversation has occurred if there was no exchange between two or more subjects. Thus, to think that when praying only telling your side of the story of your life is not only a delusional prayer but also ineffective and an incorrect one at best. Therefore, I believe so many have become so withdrawn from prayer. Because there seemingly have been no answers to their prayers, but the truth very well may just be that they have yet to take the time to receive the answers for their petitions. Prayer is not just an outlet, but it is also an input. Yes, we literally lay-out before God ourselves, our concerns, and the desires of our hearts, but we are also to allow God to input into us the wisdom, revelation, and instructions of His will concerning those very things we have lain out before Him. That is the conversation worth having. You speak to God, and He speaks to you.

STATE OF THE HEART

So, how is your heart these days? Have you accepted Christ into your heart by believing that He is the Son of the True and Living God? The most important prayer that anyone can ever pray is a prayer of repentance to accept Christ for salvation. The condition of your heart as a follower of Christ qualifies you to pray in the name of Jesus; it is essential to your prayer life.

Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves. "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it." John 14:11-14

Believe that He is.

Why pray in the name of one whom you do not yet believe in? We must first believe in Christ because we pray in His name. I believe, that because you are reading this book, you have accepted Christ into your life and believe that He is the Savior. But the belief that I am speaking of is the belief that He is the one who hears you and answers. Taking the time to pray is not a wasteful act or an act where one should be unsure whether God answers and is concerned about your affairs. After all, we are approaching God in the name of Christ, the one who has prayed for us. Knowing and understanding that Christ first prayed for us is grounds for a belief in the prayer's value, which is why we believe when we pray. It is so easy to look at the situations and circumstances of this world that would imply that Jesus is not still sovereign and operative as the savior of the world. But I assure you He is and if you would just take the chance of believing that when you pray, God hears you, and when you expect an

answer, you will also see that God's ear is open to the cries of the righteous.

Being the righteous means that we are also heirs, and being heirs, we have a right to speak with our Father. As children of admiration, our hearts take delight in spending time hearing from our Father. Therefore, when we approach God, we approach Him knowing that He wants to hear from His child. There is a significant difference between children who fearfully approach their father with a request, versus children who approach their father with confidence in knowing that their father favors them. The posture of dialogue of the two would differ quite substantially. There is no feeling like the feeling of knowing that your Father wants to hear from you and spend time with you. Just as a child who knows that he/she is wanted experiences and embraces the acknowledgement that sonship adds to their heart, it creates a feeling of being the beloved. We have been adopted into the royal family of God; He loves you so that He has given you the right to access His attention.

Therefore, when you approach God, you approach Him as a son in the name of your elder brother Jesus boldly. The reason you approach boldly is because the blood of Jesus purchased your right for adoption. We serve a holy God, and if it were not for Jesus redeeming us from the penalty of sin, we would not be able to approach God because of our sin. It was through Jesus's blood that we received the opportunity for redemption and forgiveness. This means the blood has covered our sin. It literally paid for our sins, so when God sees us, He no longer sees our sin when we approach Him as an heir in the name of Jesus Christ. Instead, He sees the DNA of the blood of His son which now covers as a result of our acceptance of Christ.

So, what does this mean? It means our hearts should be centered on the truth that we have not paid the price to approach God for our sins and are not worthy, but because the blood has been atoned for us, we are now worthy. It was not of our works; therefore, we have no right to boast but are to be thankful for The One, Christ, of whose blood gives us access. The

blood that was shed through love for us should compel us to have love and compassion for others. We ought to allow prayer to be done out of pure love, which should be shed abroad in our hearts. Prayer is a love tool; it is not meant for control, selfishness, harm, or manipulation. If done through the motives of either of those, your prayer automatically becomes ineffective and has entered into error through prayers of witchcraft.

It is quite asinine to think we can pray to an all-knowing God with a heart that has been tainted by motives that do not exemplify the nature of who He is and receive a favorable response from Him. That my dear is the epitome of hypocrisy and is what I believe to be one of the reasons many have been so repelled by prayer. I am sure someone you know who has misused prayer may have crossed your mind and you can remember how turned-off you felt. Jesus himself said, "These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me." ^{Matthew 15:8} The incorrect images of what prayer really is has caused quite a bit of damage, but I am so happy you will change that. However, I admonish you not to be judgmental towards those you know of that have entered a state of error. The truth is they simply have a heart problem. It can be corrected. This is why we are making sure yours is in check first and are learning of other things to watch out for so that your prayers will not be hindered.

Identifying heart problems.

Any time you begin to pray for any reason other than a reason for restoration, edification, comfort, and salvation, there could be an indication of a heart problem. All wrong motives are a manifestation of a heart problem and must be addressed if you desire to go to another level in your prayer life or even begin an effective prayer life. There are specific indications of heart problems which cause hindrances to your prayers, but we will get deeper into those hindrances later in another chapter. For now, just remember to make sure your motives are in line with the nature of God. God is love. Just in case there are any discrepancies of what Love really is, here is a little help.

Love endures long and is patient and kind; love never is envious nor boils over with jealousy, is not boastful or vain glorious, does not display itself haughtily. It is not conceited (arrogant and inflated with pride); it is not rude (unmannerly) and does not act unbecomingly. Love (God's love in us) does not insist on its own rights or its own way, for it is not self-seeking; it is not touchy or fretful or resentful; it takes no account of the evil done to it [it pays no attention to a suffered wrong]. It does not rejoice at injustice and unrighteousness but rejoices when right and truth prevail. Love bears up under anything and everything that comes, is ever ready to believe the best of every person, its hopes are fadeless under all circumstances, and it endures everything [without weakening] 1Corinthians 13:4-7

Another indication of a heart problem also shows through fear. We spoke about disbelief, also an indication, earlier. But perfect love of a pure heart casts out all fear. Thus, when we prepare to pray, we do not approach God from a place of fear but from a place of confidence in the love, He has for us and the love we have for Him. I have found most people who do not have a healthy relationship with God tend to approach God in a state of lowliness or fear. They tend to use words like, "if it is your will" or "God can you" as a plea out of a lack of knowledge and experience with who God is. If that has been you, it is ok; you are in good hands now. Then there are those whose arrogance has gotten the best of them, and they speak to God as though He is their subordinate of sorts. You will tend to hear them say things in a nature of command towards God. These individuals have usually had a history with God answering previous prayers and have slowly stepped outside of humility and the fruits of the spirit and have entered more so into thinking they have the authority to command Holy Spirit, angels, or even God. It may seem farfetched reading it, but it is true and does happen.

On the flipped side of the spectrum, an individual who has a healthy relationship with God will often approach Him in prayer quite differently because out of their relationship, fellowship, and experience with God, they

know His Word. Therefore, instead of asking God if it is His will, they are more so like the child who says, "Daddy you said I could" or "Father I believe your Word that says...and I thank you" out of a place of belief in their hearts of what their Father has already said. Note, it is not out of arrogance or fear but from a place of confident faith as a child believing their father's words. As a child whose heart safely trusts in their father is how we should approach prayer. Your heart reveals how you handle your sonship; it determines your entitlement. So, I ask again, how is your heart these days?

FAITH FACTOR

But without faith it is impossible to please and be satisfactory to Him. For whoever would come near to God must [necessarily] believe that God exists and that He is the rewarder of those who earnestly and diligently seek Him [out]. Hebrews 11:6

What is faith?

Some time ago, there was a popular tv show named Fear Factor. It was a type of game show. The show's objective was to test its participants' resolve by putting them into situations that terrified them. Depending on their fear they would be tested in a particular area. Millions would watch this show just to see what the next mission would be. There were snake pits, spider tanks, extreme heights, closed quarters, cages, and many other terrifying traps. Their fears became the factor; it was the only thing preventing them from winning or escaping. The winner was always the individual who conquered their fear by completing the assigned task in its entirety.

We are talking about faith in this chapter, but that concept is so wildly accurate, and I believe it also parallels with the principle of faith in prayer. Our faith is one of the main factors in prayer. Strengthening one's faith gives prayer a conquering persona. What do I mean? When you believe that no matter what pit you are in or what seemingly deadly circumstances are around you, God will answer because He hears you, it makes your prayers powerful. Your faith is like voltage, the more potent your faith, the greater the voltage. We all know how powerful high voltage electricity is. Your faith can be like lightening that strikes voltage into your prayers, giving it a charge that does damage to any and everything that has tried to be a hinderance to you. It is your factor!

THE SECRET PLACE

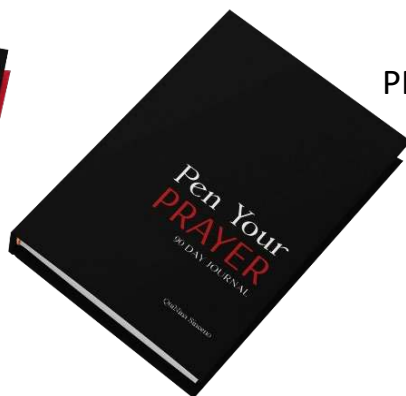
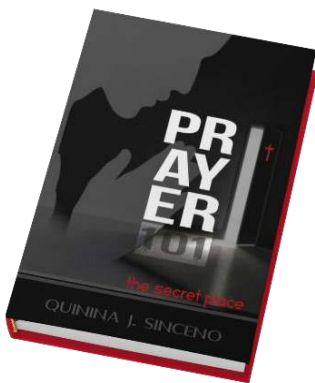
But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. Matthew 6:6

I am sure by now you have heard the saying "prayer closet" or "prayer room". But if not, it is simply a physical place where those who are considered to have a prayer life dedicate a space in their homes to pray in. This can be very effective in developing a discipline to pray as well as creating an invitation for the spirit of prayer to be in your home through this act of symbolism. Not only does it promote dedication to prayer, but what better way to tell God He has a place in your home. A prayer closet is absolutely a great thing if the space you create is used exclusively for God. It makes no sense to have a prayer place and not use it or to misuse it by mishandling its purpose and function. It would be as if you created a guest room for visitors, invited a visitor over but then parked your car in that very same guest room that you invited your guest into. I believe they would not feel so welcome. Would you? Thus, your secret place needs to be and remain sacred to you in how you use it. There is no need to say you have a sacred place of prayer in your home if it is not actually treated as though it is sacred.

ENTER HIS GATES

Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him and bless His name. Psalms 100:4

Many have made accessing the presence of God so difficult, and some have presented it to be a type of ritual of sorts. But, in truth, it is not hard at all to enter the presence of God. I believe the key to the gate opening refers us back to our state of the heart but from a bit of a different angle. Previously we talked about your changed heart being in a place of belief in God. Now that you believe in Him, movement into His presence requires another dimension of your heart being in alignment. This dimension of your heart deals with the state in which how you relate to God. As we look at the scripture, it tells us that there is a place to be, which is in His gates. We can conclude that a gate is a passageway it separates one thing from another as it creates a boundary. Gates determine whether we are in or out. Just as there are gated communities that require access codes, I believe the scripture has given us two access codes as well. Think of it this way, we first drive through the gates, punch in the code, and then go further to turn off the alarm at the residence as we go further into the property's core. I really hope you are getting the picture I am trying to paint. Can you see it? We have pulled up to the kingdom to see God in His glory. Our first code when we arrive at the gate of the Prayer Estates is thanksgiving. I believe David, the writer of this Psalm, was trying to help us find our way. He made a distinction by giving us a specific directive. He could have said, "Enter into His gates with fear and into His courts trembling. Weep before the Lord, and repent with shame," but he did not. Giving a clear description of how we are to enter His gates and courts provided us with keys to the kingdom.



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