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PRAYING
GOD'S WORD
DAY BY DAY

A Year of
DEVOTIONAL PRAYER



PUBLISHING GROUP


NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

INTRODUCTION

This book is a result of my unquenchable desire to share one of the most effective approaches to the liberated life in Christ that God has ever taught me: praying Scripture to overcome strongholds.

Actually, I didn't discover what a vital part of my liberation this approach has been until long after I had begun practicing it. I suddenly realized it was no accident that I was finally set free from some areas of bondage that had long hindered the abundant, effective, Spirit-filled life in me. After the failure of all my formulas, in my desperate search for freedom I cast myself entirely upon God. He faithfully led me to several deliberate practices that He knew would work. Stunningly, in fact.

Many of us have expended unknown energy trying hard to topple these strongholds on our own, but they won't fall, will they? That's because they must be demolished. God has handed us two sticks of dynamite with which



to demolish our strongholds: His Word and prayer. What is more powerful than two sticks of dynamite placed in separate locations? Two strapped together.

And that's what this book is all about: taking our primary sticks of dynamite—prayer and the Word—strapping them together, and igniting them with faith in what God says He can do.

What makes these two sticks of dynamite so powerfully effective when strapped together? Let's consider the stick of prayer first. Prayer keeps us in constant communion with God, which is the goal of our entire believing lives. Yes, God wants to bring us healing, but more than anything else, He wants us to know our Healer. His chief objective is to keep us connected entirely to Him.

Then what makes the *Word* such a powerful stick of dynamite to demolish strongholds? According to 2 Corinthians 10:3–5, our objectives are to cast down anything that exalts itself in our thought life and to take our thoughts

captive to Christ. And we do this every time we choose to think Christ's thoughts about any situation or stronghold instead of Satan's or our own. What are Christ's thoughts? The Word of God revealed to us.

In praying Scripture, I not only find myself in intimate communication with God, but my mind is being retrained, or renewed (Rom. 12:2), to think *His* thoughts about my situation rather than mine. This approach has worked powerfully every time I've applied it. It takes belief, diligence, and time, but the effects are dramatically liberating and eternal.

I am a fellow sojourner with you. I have made so many mistakes and learned so many hard lessons. Please don't misunderstand my intention and think I'm suggesting my own formula here. With all my heart, I believe it is one of God's. This book is about Him and the divine weapons He's given us to demolish strongholds. It's far more His Word than mine, and we've got a written guarantee on His. It's time to start igniting some dynamite!



❖
JANUARY
❖

THE GIANT STEP IN THE WALK OF
FAITH IS THE ONE WE TAKE WHEN WE
DECIDE GOD NO LONGER IS A PART OF
OUR LIVES. HE IS OUR LIFE.



My Father, I acknowledge that You are the Lord Almighty. You are the first and You are the last, and apart from You there is no other God. Make me witness to the fact that there is no other Rock but You. Enable me to say with full assurance, “I know not one” (Isa. 44:6, 8).

You are my Lord, my Holy One, my Creator, my King. You are the One who made a way through the sea, a path through mighty waters (Isa. 43:15–16).

You are the Lord my God. I desire to love You, listen to Your voice, and hold fast to You, for You, Lord, are my life (Deut. 30:20).

HE WHO IS UNCONVINCED OF
GOD'S FORGIVING LOVE IS
UNCONVINCED THAT HE IS MORE
THAN A CONQUEROR.



Father God, You made my Savior's life a guilt offering for me (Isa. 53:10). His death was enough to handle my guilt.

Lord Jesus, help me to accept and internalize the fact that if God is for me, who can be against me? (Rom. 8:31). It is You, God, who justifies (Rom. 8:33). Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at Your right hand, O God, and is also interceding for me (Rom. 8:34).

In all these things I am more than a conqueror through You who love me, Sovereign Lord (Rom. 8:37).

PATIENCE TO WAIT DOES NOT COME
FROM SUFFERING LONG FOR WHAT
WE LACK BUT FROM SITTING LONG IN
WHAT WE HAVE.



The Lord will do great things for me, and I will be filled with joy. I will sow in tears, then I will reap with songs of joy. If I go out weeping, Lord, carrying seed to sow, I will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with me (Ps. 126:3, 5–6).

Please help me be willing to sow the seed of Your Word and to water it with my tears, believing You in the midst of my pain. If I do, You will be faithful to fill me with joy again. You will faithfully bring a harvest forth from my life. My suffering will not be in vain.

You, the God of all grace, who called me to Your eternal glory in Christ, will restore me and make me strong, firm, and steadfast after I have suffered a little while (1 Pet. 5:10).

MY GOD IS HUGE AND
MY GOD IS ABLE. IF I DON'T GET
WHAT I ASK HIM FOR, I KNOW I'LL
GET SOMETHING BIGGER.



You alone are the Lord. You made the heavens, even the highest heavens, and all their starry host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them. You give life to everything, and the multitudes of heaven worship You (Neh. 9:6).

The earth is Yours, O Lord, and everything in it—the world and all who live in it (Ps. 24:1). For You are a great God, the great King above all gods. In Your hands are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to You. The sea is Yours, for You made it, and Your hands formed the dry land (Ps. 95:3–5). In Your hand is the life of every creature and the breath of all mankind (Job 12:10).

NOTHING ON EARTH COMPARES TO
THE STRENGTH GOD IS WILLING TO
INTERJECT INTO LIVES CAUGHT IN
THE ACT OF BELIEVING.



Father, so often I feel like the boy's father who first exclaimed, "I do believe!" then in a flood of sincerity cried out, "Help me overcome my unbelief!" (Mark 9:24). Please help me overcome my own unbelief, Lord, so I can start taking You at Your Word.

I pray that the eyes of my heart may be enlightened in order that I may know the hope to which You have called me, the riches of Your glorious inheritance in the saints, and Your incomparably great power to us who believe! (Eph. 1:18–19).

As You did for the jailer who received salvation through the witness of Paul and Silas, fill me with joy when I choose to believe You (Acts 16:34).

WE ARE WISE TO REMIND ONE
ANOTHER NEVER TO FORGET
WHO WE ARE AND NEVER TO
FORGET WHO WE'RE NOT.



Father, Your Word says You will break down stubborn pride and make the sky above the proud like iron and the ground beneath him like bronze (Lev. 26:19).

Lord, Your Word is drawing a vivid picture of the arrogant life. Prayers lifted to heaven will seem to hit a ceiling of iron, and life beneath the feet will be hard.

Help me to be humble before You, Lord, because the life of the proud will eventually and undoubtedly become very hard.

My Savior and Redeemer, help me to take Your yoke upon Me and learn from You, for You are gentle and humble in heart, and I will find rest for my soul (Matt. 11:29).

LIKE EVE, WE WANT TO FEEL
SMART, BUT NOTHING IS MORE
IGNORANT THAN CHOOSING
MAN'S INTELLIGENCE OVER GOD'S.



Lord God, when You asked the woman in the Garden, “What is this you have done?” her response was, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate” (Gen. 3:13).

Just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, the minds of even those with a sincere and pure devotion to Christ can be led astray (2 Cor. 11:3).

Please help me always be aware that the enemy will be up to his old tricks. Even the devout believer can be led astray if not held continually on the path by Your Word and keenly aware of Satan's schemes. Help me not be deceived by the serpent's cunning.

GOD CAN DO WHAT HE
SAYS HE CAN DO PRECISELY
BECAUSE HE IS WHO HE
SAYS HE IS.



Lord God, help me to trust in Your unfailing love. Cause my heart to rejoice in Your salvation. Help me to sing to You, Lord, for You have been good to me! (Ps. 13:5–6).

The earth is filled with Your love, O Lord! Teach me Your decrees (Ps. 119:64). May Your unfailing love be my comfort, according to Your promise to Your servant (Ps. 119:76).

O God, help me to meditate on Your unfailing love! (Ps. 48:9). Help me not to have the sin of unbelief after all You've done to tell me You love me, after all You've done, Lord, to demonstrate Your love for me.

WE NEED MORE THAN A LEADER
ON OUR ROAD TO FREEDOM.
WE NEED A SAVIOR,
ONE WHO KEEPS ON SAVING.



Lord Jesus, You came and preached peace to those of us who were far away and peace to those of us who were near. For through You, Jesus, we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

Consequently, we are no longer foreigners and aliens but fellow citizens with God's people and members of His household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with You, Christ Jesus, Yourself as the chief cornerstone.

In You the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in You, we too are being built together to become a dwelling in which You live by Your Spirit (Eph. 2:17–22).

JANUARY 10

THE WAY WE BEHAVE
OVERWHELMINGLY FLOWS
FROM WHAT WE
DEEPLY BELIEVE.



I am so grateful that my own heavenly Father is the Sovereign Lord who made the heavens and the earth by His great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for You! (Jer. 32:17).

Truly, You have released me to resurrection life! For through the law I died to the law so that I might live for God. I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me (Gal. 2:19–20).

Lord, I belong to Christ Jesus! Therefore I have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires (Gal. 5:24). Help me live in the reality of this liberating crucifixion.

OBEEDIENCE TO GOD IN A DIFFICULT
SITUATION WILL ULTIMATELY BEAR
FRUIT, EVEN THOUGH IT MIGHT
IMMEDIATELY CAUSE HARDSHIP.



Lord God, according to Your Word, if I wholeheartedly commit whatever I do to You, my plans will succeed (Prov. 16:3). I acknowledge that the heart of committing any plan to You is seeking *Your* plan.

Show me the right path, Father!

Please help me not to merely listen to the Word, and so deceive myself. Help me to do what it says (James 1:22). Your Word works, but if I am to experience it personally, I must be obedient. I need Your help, Lord.

When Your words come to me, help me to eat them. Make them my joy and my heart's delight, for I bear Your name, Lord God Almighty (Jer. 15:16). Increase my appetite for Your Word, my Sufficiency!

GOD'S MOTIVATION FOR SURFACING
THE DESTRUCTIVE PARTS OF US IS SO
WE WILL FACE THEM AND COOPERATE
AS HE UPROOTS AND HEALS THEM.



O Lord, have mercy on me. Heal me, for I
have sinned against You (Ps. 41:4).

See how distressed I am! I am in torment
within, and in my heart I am disturbed, for I
have been most rebellious. Outside, the sword
bereaves; inside, there is only death (Lam.
1:20). But thank You that I can be assured You
will never forsake one of Your children crying
out in agony over sin.

Lord God, lift me out of the slimy pit, out
of the mud and mire. Set my feet on a rock and
give me a firm place to stand. Put a new song
in my mouth, a hymn of praise to my God!
Blessed is the one who makes the Lord his trust
(Ps. 40:2–4).

GOD'S MERCIES HAVE EXISTED
THROUGH ALL ETERNITY,
YET SCRIPTURE TELLS US THEY
ARE NEW EVERY MORNING.



Merciful and faithful Lord, because of Your great love I am not consumed, for Your compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness.

I say to myself, "The Lord is my portion; therefore I will wait for him." Lord, You are good to those whose hope is in You, to the one who seeks You (Lam. 3:22–25).

Surely You, Jesus, took up my infirmities and carried my sorrows, yet we considered You stricken by God, smitten by Him and afflicted. But You were pierced for my transgressions; You were crushed for my iniquities; the punishment that brought me peace was upon You, and by Your wounds, Lord Jesus, I am healed (Isa. 53:4–5).

GOD DOES NOT INSIST ON OUR
FORGIVING OTHERS FOR THE SAKE
OF THAT PERSON ALONE BUT FOR
PEACE IN OUR OWN LIVES.



Lord, as hard as this may be for me to comprehend or rationalize, Your Word is clear: if I forgive others when they sin against me, You, my heavenly Father, will also forgive me. But if I do not forgive others their sins, You, my Father, will not forgive my sins (Matt. 6:14–15).

So empower me to bear with others and forgive whatever grievances I may have against them. Help me to forgive as You, Lord, have forgiven me (Col. 3:13).

If someone sins against me seven times in a day, and seven times comes back to me and says, “I repent,” I desire to be obedient to You. Strengthen me, Lord, to forgive him, to forgive her (Luke 17:4).

JANUARY 15

GOD'S SPECIALTY IS
RAISING DEAD THINGS TO LIFE
AND MAKING IMPOSSIBLE
THINGS POSSIBLE.



Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me?

I choose to put my hope in You, O God, for I will yet praise You, my Savior and my God. My soul is downcast within me; therefore I remember You! (Ps. 42:5–6). In all my distress, You too are distressed, and the angel of Your presence saves me. In Your love and mercy You redeem me. You lift me up and carry me as You have done for Your children through all the days of old (Isa. 45:3).

Lord, help me not to fear, for You are with me; I need not be dismayed, for You are my God. You will strengthen me and help me. You will uphold me with Your righteous right hand (Isa. 41:10).

WE HAVE TO EXERCISE FAITH BEFORE
WE CAN BELIEVE WE ARE EVEN
CAPABLE OF LONG-TERM OBEDIENCE.
AND WE ARE!



Lord God, in my inner being I delight in Your law. But I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members.

How wretched I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?

Thanks be to God—through Jesus Christ our Lord (Rom. 7:22–25). Lord, You sent Your Son to rescue me from this body of death! Set me free to new life in You! I do not have to be a prisoner to sin.

Please help me understand that the battle which rages over my body originates in my mind. Help me surrender my mind to You and Your truth.

YOUR ENEMY IS STANDING
ON YOUR GOD-GIVEN GROUND
DARING YOU TO TAKE
POSSESSION OF IT.



I will sing to You, Lord, for You are highly exalted. The horse and its rider You have hurled into the sea! You, Lord, are my strength and my song. You have become my salvation. You are my God and I will praise You.

You, Lord, are a warrior! The Lord is Your name! (Exod. 15:1–3).

Your right hand, O God, is majestic in power. Your right hand, O Lord, shatters the enemy. In the greatness of Your majesty, You will throw down those who oppose You. You will unleash Your burning anger. It will consume them like stubble (Exod. 15:6–7).

You are the Great I AM. This is Your name forever! (Exod. 3:14–15). My enemy cannot begin to stand against You.

GOD ALONE KNOWS THE ULTIMATE
OBJECTIVE TO WHICH HE ALIGNS
EVERY DIVINE ACT ON BEHALF
OF HIS CHILDREN.



Father, it is unthinkable that You would do wrong. How I thank You that the Almighty would never pervert justice.

Who appointed you over the earth? Who put You in charge of the whole world? If it were Your intention and You withdrew Your Spirit and breath, all mankind would perish together and man would return to the dust (Job 34:12–15).

Instead, my Lord, You have promised that Your plans for Your people are plans to prosper and not to harm, plans to give us hope and a future (Jer, 29:11).

Who is like You, Lord—the One who sits enthroned on high yet stoops down to look on the heavens and the earth? (Ps. 113:5–6).

FAITH ALWAYS PLEASES GOD, EVEN IF
IT PROMPTS AN OFF-TARGET PETITION.
WE ALL ERR IN MANY WAYS. LET US
ERR ON THE SIDE OF FAITH.



Father God, according to Your Word, without faith it is impossible to please You, because anyone who comes to You must believe that You exist and that You reward those who earnestly seek You (Heb. 11:6).

Lord, I want to please You. Build faith in me so my life will honor the life of Your Son at all times, in every way.

Help me not be like the ancient Israelites who willfully put You to the test (Ps. 78:18). They did not believe in You or trust in Your deliverance even after all the wonders You had shown them (Ps. 78:22).

Please swell my soul with belief, and help me to trust emphatically in Your deliverance.

BY DEMANDING THAT WE SEEK HIS
GLORY ALONE, GOD IS CALLING US TO
OVERCOME THE NATURAL TEMPTATION
TO SEEK OUR OWN.



Father, Your Word asks the questions, “Who is it you have insulted and blasphemed? Against whom have you raised your voice and lifted your eyes in pride? Against the Holy One of Israel!” (2 Kings 19:22).

Please help me to have a proper respect for You, O God.

A day is certainly coming, Father, when the arrogance of man will be brought low and the pride of men humbled. You alone will be exalted in that day (Isa. 2:17).

Help me to humble myself under Your mighty hand, Lord, that You may lift me up in due time (1 Pet. 5:6). Help me to humble myself now so You are free to do wonders later!