

Introduction

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

God desires to reveal His Kingdom to us, bestow His richest blessings upon us as His people, and transform us into a Bride for His Son. It starts with prayer that is aligned with His will.

Too often, prayer is consumed with our own will, our own desires, and our own problems. No doubt, it is important to bring our needs, problems, and requests to God, and He desires for us to do so. But if this is the depth of our prayer life, it is very shallow.

True prayer is about aligning ourselves with God and His will. Through the Scriptures, God has revealed His will to us. For example, God has revealed:

- His desire for a holy people, a nation of God, composed of individuals who willingly offer themselves in His service to bring Him glory.
- His Sovereignty over all the nations of the earth and every global event, including the day of judgement to come.
- His wisdom and ways, sharing His secret counsels with those who fear Him.
- His love for those suffering for His name, and for the poor, the sojourner, the widow, the orphan, and the sick.
- His commandment to love one another as brothers and sisters in the household of God, and to love our neighbors and our enemies.
- His desire for us to enter into His rest as we trust in Him and remember all that He has done for us.
- How worthy He is of all praise, honor, adoration, and thanksgiving.

Deuteronomy 29:29 says, "The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law." God has revealed His will to us so that we may *do it*. God's greatest desire is for our minds to be renewed to the likeness of His mind so that His will is done in the earth. Jesus told us to pray, "Your Kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." In heaven, everyone and everything is in total willing submission to God and His will. Accordingly, success in prayer is not about having our requests for our own needs met and answered. Success in prayer is when we have so aligned ourselves with God that His will is brought to pass in the earth without hindrance from our flesh, our own ideas, or the schemes of the evil one.

BACKGROUND OF DAILY PRAYER FOCUS

Years ago, the Lord asked me to live entirely by faith, not asking anyone for anything I need but simply trusting Him in prayer and obeying His voice. It was daunting and a shock to my system at first, as I was accustomed to being very self-willed and self-reliant. Letting go of control and my own way of doing things was challenging.

At that time, the Lord made it clear that if I kept my focus on the things that matter the most to Him, He would take care of the things that matter the most to me. (See Matthew 6:33; Joshua 1:8; Psalm 37:4; and Psalm 1.) To guide my times of prayer into His Word, His will, His truth, His purposes, and His heart, He gave me these Daily Prayer Focus categories. I have learned a tremendous amount about Him through this and He has been faithful to me - never failing to keep watch over all things pertaining to my life and well-being.

This book invites you to join me in praying through the Daily Prayer Focus topics that the Lord has given me. For each day's focus topic, an extensive but not all-inclusive list of Scriptures is given to help you begin to align your thoughts with God's will on the subject. Some of the Scripture passages provided for any given day may be longer than what you are accustomed to. But I encourage you to take your time to let the Word of God sink deep into your Spirit. Even if you only pray one passage of Scripture on a certain day with deepening understanding of and submission to God's Word and will, I believe this is better in God's sight than praying one thousand prayers out of self-will or trying to force God to bow to our desired outcomes and made up prophecies.

If you lack wisdom, ask God. He will give it to you. Ask Him to reveal His will to you, ask Him what He means, ask Him how things work... *ask, seek, knock* – not for your own desires but about His. Allow the Word of God to renew your mind. If what the Word says is different than your view of God, it is you who needs to change, not God.

Jesus will never fail you. When we abide in Him and He in us, we can ask whatever we wish and it will be done for us. (John 15:7.)

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

The font of this book is large so that it is easy to read in prayer, even while kneeling before God with the book on the floor, standing, walking, or pacing as I often do in prayer times. God is not so concerned about our physical posture. But He is looking at the intent of our hearts as we approach Him. Let us do so with holy reverence.

Before you set out to pray according to these Daily Prayer Focus topics, I recommend clearing out your own cares and concerns. To do this, designate a separate time of prayer each day for your own needs or quickly cast your cares upon Jesus before opening to the Daily Prayer Focus Scriptures for the day. Once you have given your cares to Jesus, leave them in His very capable hands. If personal matters arise as you begin to pray the Daily Prayer Focus, have a piece of paper nearby to write it down so you will not be concerned about forgetting it later. Then, quickly resume in the Daily Prayer Focus. It can be very dangerous to mix your will with God's will or your anxieties with God's purposes, so try to avoid this as much as possible.

Turn to the Scriptures for whatever day of the week it is. If it is Monday, turn to Monday. If you miss a day or several days, just pick up and proceed to the day it is today. Whatever day(s) you missed will come around again next week, sure enough.

Here's how I use these Daily Prayer Focus Scriptures:

1. I open to the day's focus topic, scanning and reading through some of the Scriptures silently, inviting the Holy Spirit to guide me into the issues that God wants to highlight.

This is the priming the pump, so to speak.

2. Soon enough, the Holy Spirit causes one or two Scriptures, phrases, or sub-groups to “pop” off the page to me. I read them out loud. I will pause, meditate, repeat a Scripture, wait upon the Lord and continue reading until I sense the Holy Spirit stirring within me to move me into prayer. This is like pumping the pump until the water comes.
3. Once the Holy Spirit is stirred within me and ready to pour out, I pray according to whatever the Lord reveals to my heart and speak forth the word that the Lord puts into my mouth. When we do not know how to pray as we ought, the Holy Spirit knows. Praying and speaking out what the Holy Spirit gives is the rivers of living water Jesus promised would pour out of our inmost being. Praise the Lord for His faithfulness!

If the Lord shows you another way to use this book, do whatever He says. Simply having so many Scriptures compiled on these subjects may stir you to deeper reflection, study, and meditation on the Word and ways of God.

In whatever way you use this book, I pray it is a blessing to you. May the Lord release to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation as you grow in your knowledge of Him and as you learn to pray prayers in alignment with His will and purposes.

By His grace,
Wendy Bowen

2022 UPDATED EDITION

This 2022 Edition has been updated with Chapter Indexes of Topics on each day. The days of the week also begin with the first day, Sunday, and end with Saturday, the seventh day, the Sabbath rest of God, in accordance with the Biblical pattern on the days of the week.

Lastly, the cover of the book has been redesigned as one of Manifest International's Core Curriculum books. Although it is not a course for studying, the training for this is in the *doing* of it. Forsaking our own will to align ourselves with God's will is truly at the core of the way we approach prayer.

Be blessed!