

We continue with the seven steps to answered prayer with step number 3.

**STEP NUMBER THREE:
BE POSITIVE IN YOUR THINKING**

Step number three to receiving answered prayer *is let every thought and desire affirm that you have what you asked for.*

After you pray in faith according to God’s Word, never permit a mental picture of failure to remain in your mind. No, we are talking about receiving answers to prayer. Once you have prayed and asked God for something, you must never doubt for one minute that you have the answer. If doubts persist, rebuke them, and cast them down. Get your mind on the answer. To get your mind on the answer, you will have to get your mind on the word. The bible says in:

James 4:7

7 “...Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”

1 Peter 5:8

8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.”

Doubt is from the devil. You must resist doubts and rebuke them. You must get your mind on the answer to your prayer – get it on God’s Word.

In order to receive answers to your prayers, you must eradicate every image, suggestion, vision, dream, impression, feeling, and all thoughts that do not contribute to your faith and that do not affirm that you have what you have asked God for.

The word “eradicate” means to **uproot or remove**. Remember, Satan moves in the sense realm, in the natural realm, and he uses the tool of suggestion. Some people think that every kind of vision, dream, impression, or feeling they have is from God, but that is not true.

Reject Anything that Contradicts the Word

Satan can move in the supernatural realm, too, because he is a spirit being just as God is a spirit. You must be able to know whether a vision, dream, impression, or suggestion is from God or Satan. Those suggestions that do not line up with the Word are of the devil.

A minister had a good church that he had built and had pastored for twenty-five years. He had built up a notable work. He was in his fifties, but he was going to have to quit his work because of a physical deficiency. This physical condition hindered him and kept him from doing his best. Although he was a Full Gospel minister he didn't know how to believe for his healing.

One morning he awoke and saw something standing in his room in shining apparel and he thought it was Jesus. This "someone" said, "It is not my will to heal you." But this being could not have been Jesus because what the spirit being said contradicted the word.

MATTHEW 8:17

"7 That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses."

HEBREWS 1:1,2

***"1 God, who at sundry times and divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,
2 Hath in these last days SPOKEN UNTO US BY HIS SON, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds."***

Jesus is God speaking to us. Jesus is the Word of God. He is the Word made flesh [John 1:1-5, 14]. If you want to see God at work, look at Jesus. Jesus was the will of God in action while Jesus was on the earth. The Bible says Jesus in Acts 10:38, ***"... went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil."***

In other words, if Jesus appeared to you in a vision and said that it was not His will to heal you, He would be making Himself out to be a liar. Could it be His will *for you to have* what He bore for you? No, of course not! Jesus bore your sin, as well as your sicknesses and diseases so you would not have to bear them.

Back to the minister. It was the devil who brought that vision to that man, and that minister accepted it. God does not propagate doubt and unbelief. Every image, suggestion, vision, dream, impression, feeling, and all thoughts that do not contribute to your believing that you have what you have asked for, should be completely cast down and eradicated. They should be replaced with God's Word [2 Corinthians 10:3-5].

SPIRIT OF LIFE MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL, INC.

MINISTRY SCHOOL 3rd EDITION SESSION 59

PRAYER LESSON 2 – SEVEN STEPS TO ANSWERED PRAYER PART 2

Much of the information in this teaching comes from Kenneth E. Hagin's Bible Prayer Study Course ©1992

God's word says that you have your answer if you based your petition on the word and believed you received it when you prayed. When you believe you receive your answer **BEFORE YOU SEE IT MANIFESTED**, you are appropriating God's Word by faith. It is that kind of faith that moves God!

So many times, people say that they *feel* like God heard them when they prayed. We know those people are in for a fall the minute they say that. When we pray, we say I KNOW God heard me. We say, I believe that I have my answer because the Word says I do, not because I feel anything [Mark 11:24]. God's Word is true whether you feel like it is or not.

Faith's confession creates reality. So, stand your ground and refuse to be defeated.

A Testimony of the Fight of Faith

In a young man's earliest days, he nearly lost out. He was sickly most of his life and bedfast for sixteen months with organic heart trouble and was almost completely paralyzed. The doctor told him that every tube in his chest was open and undeveloped. There was no operation that could help him.

He learned to pray the prayer of faith by reading the scriptures, especially Mark 11:24 which says, ***"Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them."*** He believed that he had received healing for his heart **before** he saw his healing manifested. He began to say with his mouth that he believed he was healed according to God's Word.

(People keep on struggling when it comes to prayer and faith because they do not actually believe what the word says.)

After he prayed, he believed he received without one single manifestation of his healing. He sat up in his bed, determined to get up and walk! No one was around to pick him up if he fell because his mother was too weak to pick him up and there were no other relatives there.

He took hold of his bedpost and pulled himself up. He became dizzy but continued to pull himself up out of bed. He was still hanging on to the bedpost when everything stopped spinning. He wasn't dizzy anymore. He began to have feeling in his legs, which felt like a million pins were sticking him. It felt good even though it hurt. He soon felt normal and had complete feeling in his body. He started walking around the room for a while and got up and walked again the next day.

SPIRIT OF LIFE MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL, INC.

MINISTRY SCHOOL 3rd EDITION SESSION 59

PRAYER LESSON 2 – SEVEN STEPS TO ANSWERED PRAYER PART 2

Much of the information in this teaching comes from Kenneth E. Hagin's Bible Prayer Study Course ©1992

He did not tell his family what he was doing because they would have cautioned him against it. In fact, when he finally told his mother what happened it took her a while to get some clothes for him. The next morning, he put on his clothes and walked to the breakfast table. His grandfather looked at him and asked, “Has the dead been raised?” The young man said, “Yes, God has raised me up.”

After he finished breakfast, he went in and laid down and fell asleep for about ten minutes. When he awoke, he heard an audible voice [it was coming from outside, not from within his spirit]. The Voice that had told him to get up out of bed and walk had come from the inside – in his spirit. That was the voice of God speaking to his spirit.

This voice he was hearing now came from the outside and said, **“... For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.”** It was quoting **James 4:14**. That voice continued with, **“and today thou shalt surely die”** quoting **Isaiah 38:1**. He knew that both of those statements were from the Bible. James, the brother of Jesus had said the first one and Isaiah had said the second one when he spoke to King Hezekiah, **“...Set thine house in order: for thou shalt die, and not live.”**

After hearing this, the thought came to the young man that he was going to die. He got up and sat in a chair in the room until 2:00 that afternoon, just waiting to die. He thought that voice was God speaking to him.

While he sat there a voice from the inside of him spoke the words, **“With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation”**, quoting **Psalm 91:16**.

He didn't pay any attention to those words since he was preparing to die! But those words just kept coming back to him. It was like they were floating through him over and over on the inside. He didn't realize it then, but they were coming from his spirit. The Holy Spirit was trying to guide him.

In **Proverbs 20:27** it says, **“the spirit of man is the candle of the Lord...”** God guides you through your spirit if you are born again. His spirit was trying to pass the truth from **Psalm 91** on to his conscious mind. The third time those words came floating up, he picked them up and toyed with them in his mind.

The fourth time he stopped and asked, “Who said that?” Something on the inside of him spoke up and said, “It is the ninety-first Psalm.” He looked the scripture up and found where it was written. He then jumped up, holding his bible. He kicked his foot in the air and told the devil to get out of there. He told him that he wasn't going to die. He told him that God had promised him long life!

SPIRIT OF LIFE MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL, INC.

MINISTRY SCHOOL 3rd EDITION SESSION 59

PRAYER LESSON 2 – SEVEN STEPS TO ANSWERED PRAYER PART 2

Much of the information in this teaching comes from Kenneth E. Hagin's Bible Prayer Study Course ©1992

Acting on God's word brings results. His battle was won by eradicating every image, imagination, vision, or thought that did not contribute to his believing for the thing which he had asked for.

STEP NUMBER FOUR **GUARD YOUR MIND**

Step number four to receiving answered prayer is guard against every evil thought that comes into your mind to try to make you doubt God's Word.

Thoughts are governed by observation, association, and teaching. So, this step is closely associated with step number three. The Bible says in **2 Corinthians 10:5** that we are to cast down every imagination that exalts itself against the knowledge of God. This is why you should stay away from all places and things that do not support your affirmation that God has answered your prayer. Your thoughts are governed and affected by observations, associations, and teaching.

That means that sometimes you will have to stay away from the kind of churches that can put more unbelief in you than anything else. Also, be sure to enjoy fellowship with those who contribute to your faith.

2 CORINTHIANS 10:5

“5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.”

PHILIPPIANS 4:8

“8 finally, brethren, whatsoever things are TRUE, whatsoever things are HONEST, whatsoever things are JUST, whatsoever things are PURE, whatsoever things are LOVELY, if there be ANY VIRTUE, and if there be ANY PRAISE, think on these things.”

The Bible tells us in Philippians exactly what to think on. Many people are thinking on the wrong things, and they are defeated in life as a result. But if you will guard against every evil thought and think only on those things which affirm that God has heard and answered your prayers, you will be cooperating with God in faith. You will have to guard your mind in order to develop faith. And as you stand your ground firm in faith, your faith will see you through to victory.