

SPIRIT OF LIFE MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL, INC.  
MINISTRY SCHOOL 3<sup>RD</sup> EDITION  
SESSION 60  
PRAYER – LESSON 3  
SEVEN STEPS TO ANSWERED PRAYER PART 3

In our previous teachings on this subject, we discussed four of the seven steps already covered. They are as follows:

1. Decide what you want from God and find the scripture or scriptures that definitely promise you these things.
2. Ask God for the things you want and believe that you receive them.
3. Let every thought and desire affirm that you have what you have asked for.
4. Guard against ever evil thought that comes into your mind to try to make you doubt God's word.

**STEP NUMBER FIVE**  
**MEDITATE ON GOD'S PROMISES**

Step number five to receiving answered prayer is to meditate constantly on the promises upon which you based the answer to your prayer. In other words, you must see yourself in possession of what you have asked for and make plans accordingly as if it were already a reality.

**Proverbs 4:20-22**

***“20 My son, ATTEND TO MY WORDS; incline thine ear unto my sayings.  
21 Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart.  
22 For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.”***

In **Proverbs 4:20** God said, ***“My son, attend to my words...”*** God will make His Word good in your life if you will act on it. If it is healing you need, for instance, God's Word says, ***“...Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses”*** (**Matt. 8:17**) and ***“...with his stripes we are healed”*** (**Isaiah 53.5**). If you do not see yourself healed, then the Word of God has departed from your eyes.

## **SEE YOURSELF WITH YOUR ANSWER**

When a young man that was lying on a bed of sickness discovered these truths, even before he could walk, he began to see himself well. He was in faith, so he began to make plans accordingly – according to his faith. Up until then he had seen himself dead. For a long time, he had even pictured his funeral and everything that went with it. He had envisioned the open grave and the cemetery. As the light of God’s Word came into him, he began to see himself alive and well and serving God.

He began to make plans according to his faith because he believed he had received his healing. He had his momma get him a pencil and a tablet and he began to write down sermons because he wanted to preach. He was acting in faith. He never did preach those sermons, but still has one of them.

One day his doctor came in while he had all his notes and his bible out on the bed. The doctor told him that he shouldn’t read only the bible all the time. He asked him if he had ever read the comics, the newspaper, or anything like that. He told him that he never had the time. He asked him if he had ever read books and told the doctor he never had time.

He knew that the doctor thought he was a nut because he read the bible all the time. The doctor thought he was going to lose his mind by constantly reading the bible. But no one loses their mind by reading the bible! Reading the bible will restore your mind and will uplift and refresh your spirit.

Later in life he wrote on the flyleaf of his bible in red ink, “The bible says it, I believe it, and that settles it.” He was not interested in what this or that church believed. He was interested in what the bible said. He was not interested in church creeds or church doctrines. He was only interested in what the bible said.

If God’s Word says He hears and answers prayer, and if that Word doesn’t depart from before your eyes, then you’re bound to see yourself with the things you asked for. If you don’t see yourself with the things you desire, then God’s Word has departed from before your eyes.

If you do not stand by the Word of God, although God wants you to stand by you, He cannot, because the only way God works is through His Word. Remember, God only works and moves in line with His Word. He has bound Himself by His Word. **Psalm 138:2** says **that he has magnified His Word ABOVE HIS NAME**. If you stand by the Word, God will stand by you and will make His Word work for good in your life. But if you do not stand on God and His Word, then He has nothing to make it work for good in your life.

Many folks pray and pray and pray, but they do not pray according to the Word. **John 15:7** says, ***“IF ye abide in me and my words ABIDE in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.”***

Jesus did not just say in **John 15:7**, ***“If you abide in Me, you shall ask what you will.”*** He said, ***“If ye abide in me, AND MY WORDS ABIDE IN YOU, [then] ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.”*** When we have God’s word abiding in us, we have a sure foundation to stand upon!

A preacher held a meeting once in Fort Worth, Texas in a Full Gospel church. He was staying in the parsonage and one day the pastor asked him to go with him to see an elderly lady evangelist under whose ministry the pastor had been saved.

This woman was eighty-two years old. She had been operated on and the doctors had found seven cancers in her. The doctors just sewed her back up and did not touch them. They told her that she would probably die soon. Months had come and gone but she was still alive, although bedfast.

When the visiting preacher got there, she insisted that she was old enough to die, but the preacher told her to let God heal her first. He told her that if she lived, she could still win many souls to God because so many had already been saved and filled with the Holy Spirit under her ministry. They read **Proverbs 4:20-22** to her and told her to begin to see herself well and back up preaching.

This took place in September. The following May the preacher went back to that church for another meeting. The pastor told the preacher that the woman had received her healing. She had just held a two-week revival meeting. She had phoned the pastor and said she would come to the preacher’s meeting on Tuesday night. When she showed up the visiting preacher did not recognize her. She came up to him, threw her arms around him and hugged him.

It startled him, and then she said, “You probably do not recognize me.”

He told her that he did not because she looked so different. She had gained weight and looked younger than her age. Then she explained who she was and that she was so glad that he and the pastor did not let her die. She had done just what they had told her to do. She began to see herself well and she had received her healing. She said she had spent the entire summer following her healing booked up with meetings. Later the visiting preacher heard that she lived on to be ninety-one. So, you see, she lived several years past being given a death sentence, and did not die from cancer.

Years ago, a man pastored a church in Texas and one of the older women in the church had cancer of the stomach. The doctors sent her home to die. She was eighty-three years old and she felt it was time for her to die. Her pastor told her not to die sick and diseased. He told her to let God heal her and then die if she wanted to. Her pastor prayed with her that she would not die sick. He asked the Lord to help her get back her confidence in divine healing. He visited her again, but she still wanted to die.

This woman finally decided she would attend a healing service the pastor was holding. She came for about a week or two, but nothing happened because she was talking doubt and unbelief. She had a big growth that had eaten away her stomach and was eating out her back.

One night the pastor perceived that she was going to be healed. He spoke to her and told her that he had received a mini-vision and that she was going to be healed. He told her that within ten minutes she would be out of the wheelchair and dancing. He anointed her with oil and prayed for her. Instantly she came out of that chair and began dancing. She was completely healed.

She later testified in that church about her complete healing. She said she had ridden the bus to church the evening she received her healing, and on the way home, she had testified to others on the bus. Nine years later, when she was ninety-two, the pastor stopped by to see her, but she was out visiting folks. He asked about her and was told that she had been to her doctor for a checkup, and the doctor said that she was still in perfect health. He could not find a single thing wrong with her! The pastor was so glad that he did not let her die.

Now, these two women had similar stories. They had begun to see themselves dead. They had to see themselves with what God had provided for them, and YOU must also see for yourself what God has provided for you!

### **STEP NUMBER SIX**

#### **Continually Thank God for the Answer**

Step number six to receiving answered prayer is in your every waking moment, think on the greatness of God and His goodness, and count your blessings. This will increase your faith.

Lift your heart to God continually in increasing praise and gratitude for what He has done and for what He is doing for you now.

## Philippians 4:6

***“6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.”***

That phrase, ***“Be careful for nothing”*** means in nothing be anxious. It also means, (Amp) ***“Do not fret or have any anxiety about anything...”*** As long as you fret and have anxiety, all the praying and fasting in the world isn't going to do any good.

The rest of that verse in **Philippians 4:6** says, ***“with thanksgiving.”*** When you pray and make your requests known to God, then you must thank Him for the answer. We are to pray *with thanksgiving*.

A man was preaching some years ago in Texas. He and his team were invited for dinner at the home of one of the families in the church. The woman told him and his team that she had asthma and had gone to a specialist. The specialist told her that it was the worst case of asthma he had ever seen. She had found some relief but not much. She had had just about everyone who had a healing ministry pray for her, but nothing had happened.

She told the preacher that she had gone to another preacher's revival that had been held in that area. She was in the healing line, and the preacher told her to start praising God from that moment on that she was healed. She told him that she wasn't healed. That preacher told her to thank God for the Word and to say, “The Word says I AM HEALED.”

She began to do that, and soon she got so taken up with praising God that she didn't even know when all the asthma attacks left her. As she related this story to the preacher at the dinner table, she told him that it had been fourteen years since she had any symptoms. She was healed.

The scripture says, ***“Do not fret or have any anxiety about anything...”*** (Phil 4:6 Amp.) Anything means anything! Therefore, you can let your request be known with thanksgiving because you know God is going to hear you.

When you come across situations which seem impossible, just say that all things are possible to him that believes (quoting **Mark 9:23**), and speak aloud, *“I am a believer. Sometimes the devil will tempt me with thoughts that try to hinder my belief, but I have the Word of God to stand on. And because God's Word is true, I thank God for my answer before I ever see it come to pass!”*

## **STEP NUMBER SEVEN**

### **MAKE EVERY PRAYER A STATEMENT OF FAITH**

Step number seven to receiving answered prayer is *make every prayer relative to what you have asked a **statement of faith** instead of unbelief!*

You can think and say words of faith just as easily as you can think and say words of doubt and unbelief. *It is thinking faith thoughts and speaking faith words that leads the heart out of defeat and into victory!*

Speaking about the prayer of faith, the great man of faith, Smith Wigglesworth once said, “If you pray seven times for any one thing, you prayed six times in unbelief.”

Andrew Murray said, “It is not good taste to ask God for the same thing over and over again.”

Andrew Murray also said that if what you have prayed for has not materialized, and you do pray again, don’t pray for it again in the same way because that would be unbelief. He said to remind God that you asked for it and remind Him of what His word says and put Him in remembrance of His promises (**Isaiah 43:26**). Tell Him that you are expecting it and thank Him for it.

Let me give you an example of saying and thinking words of faith and receiving a bountiful benefit and blessing. A preacher held a meeting once in west Texas. Another man and his wife were both singers traveling with him. The singer had promised the preacher that he would stay with him for a certain period of time because the preacher had taken a good deal of time to train him. The singer said that he wouldn’t start preaching on his own because the preacher had trained him sufficiently so he could be of help to him.

They were holding a meeting in a motel conference room, and the singer and his wife were staying with the pastor that invited them for the meeting. One day during the meetings the man and his wife drove up to the motel where the guest preacher was staying. As they drove up, the preacher had a revelation that God was calling this man to preach but the man was afraid to tell him.

The singer and his wife talked to the preacher about several things. Finally, the singer told him he had to tell him something. The preacher told him that he already knew what it was because the Lord had already shown him. He assured the singer that it was all right and that he wouldn’t stand in his way of the Lord’s call.

Later, the singer tried out for the pastorate of a little church in an area where the preacher himself had pastored, and they voted him in. The singer told them that all he knew was what he had learned from the preacher. Later the singer, now a pastor, invited the preacher to come and hold a meeting for him.

This man had told the people in his church that in sixty days they would be running sixty people in attendance in Sunday school. When the preacher finally went to hold a meeting, the Sunday school superintendent told the preacher that they had had good pastors at the church before, but they never had more than eighteen in Sunday school. The Sunday school superintendent said that on the day that this new pastor said they would have sixty in Sunday school, they had sixty. (The singer turned pastor had learned the principles of faith!).

Then the new pastor said that in ninety days they would be running ninety in Sunday school, and they did! He then said that in another sixty days they would be running 120, and they did that too.

In nine months' time that little church had grown from 18 to 120 in Sunday school. The singer/pastor then told the congregation that they were going to build a new brick church building there. The Sunday school superintendent told the visiting preacher that by that time he was ready to believe anything, and he said he would give the first thousand dollars for it himself. He said that his father, who was mayor of the town would also give a thousand dollars. When the visiting preacher went to hold his meeting in that church, they had a full house.

### **Don't Undo Your Prayers**

This new pastor, who had traveled with the preacher knew how to believe God. He knew how to receive from God through prayer, and he knew how to hold on to the answer by standing his ground in faith.

Many times, people undo their prayers. They get into unbelief and just stay there, and it is as if they are spinning their wheels in prayer. You must get in faith and STAY THERE! You may have to stand your ground for a period of time, but if you do stay in the arena of faith, the answer will come.

An example of people undoing their prayers occurred with a preacher that held a meeting in a church. One night a woman came into that church just before the service was turned over to the visiting preacher. She jumped up and said she had a prayer request. She said that she had come from a woman's house and that this woman wasn't supposed to live beyond midnight.

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The pastor of the church related that he had seen this woman earlier that day and confirmed that what the woman had said was true. He told everyone to stand and pray for her healing. Everyone stood up and they prayed. They thanked God for the answer. The next night the same woman that had said that the woman would not live past midnight, said she thought they ought to pray for this woman again. She said the doctor had examined the sick woman and could not understand why she hadn't died. In fact, he said she was going to live after all. The woman had gotten out of bed and was sitting in a chair although she was still very weak. This would only be natural since she had been bedfast for a while.

The woman that stood up said that it was evident that God had *touched* this sick woman, but that now we should pray that God would heal her! That would not be right because if we did that, they would not be making every prayer relative to what they had already asked for which was a statement of faith. Instead of making a statement of faith it would be a statement of unbelief.

They hadn't prayed the first time for God to touch her. They had prayed that God would heal her. God had answered their prayers. Therefore, to pray again for the same thing would be praying in unbelief.

While all this conversation was going on the visiting preacher had a feeling that he should get up and say something, but he hesitated. He knew that because the sick woman had been healed by mass faith, that is, by the corporate prayer of the congregation, that if the congregation kept praying for her to be healed, their unbelief would be taking her out of God's hands, and she would probably die. You see, by that time, the sick woman was beyond using her own faith to receive her healing.

The visiting preacher was reluctant to say anything. He knew deep inside that within three days the sick woman would be dead. Sure enough, three days later she died.

Many times, we are cheated out of the blessings God wants us to have in this life because we are not cooperating with Him. Instead of praying again for this sister's healing, the congregation should have raised their hands and thanked God that she had been healed.

Many years ago, at a district convention of many pastors in Texas, a certain man of faith was there. A call came that one of the pastors in that city was in the hospital dying. The district superintendent called for everyone to pray, so they all prayed for this dying man. After they prayed, they thanked God that He had heard them.

The minister that led the prayer started to walk away then he turned around and came back to the microphone.

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He asked, “How many of you are still going to keep praying for this brother in the hospital?”

The man of faith did not lift his hand, but nearly everyone else did.

Then he asked the crowd, “What do you want to do that for?”

He went on to explain to the congregation that they had already prayed in faith and that they were just to keep on praising God because God had heard their prayer and had healed that man. Praying any other way would be praying in unbelief.

They continued on with the convention, and afterwards, a man came in and announced that the man who had been dying had suddenly revived and was going to be all right. The sick man had seen Jesus walk into his room, and Jesus said to him, **“I am the Lord that healeth thee.”** The man had been unconscious, but he revived and had seen Jesus. This happened at the same time as the group of pastors were praying. The man immediately revived and was well.

### **Use the Faith You Have**

**Romans 12:3**

***“3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as GOD HATH DEALT TO EVERY MAN THE MEASURE OF FAITH.”***

God has dealt to every man the measure of faith. Therefore, every believer can receive answers to his prayers. If you say you don’t have faith, then you are making God out to be a liar. You do have faith. Every man and woman and child have faith if they are saved. But it is thinking faith thoughts and speaking faith words that lead the heart out of defeat into victory.

In other words, you need to use the faith you have for your faith to be effectual.

Follow these seven steps to receive answered prayer and expect to receive answers to your prayers. Do not accept no for an answer and do not be denied. This is your family right in Christ, your redemptive right, your gospel right, and your right as a recreated blood-bought child of God to have what God has promised you.

By faith appropriate what belongs to you, and it will come. It is yours now by faith. So, accept God’s Word, believe it, and it will become a reality in your life!

Let's review the seven steps again:

1. Be specific and stand on God's Promises
2. You must ask God for What you Want
3. Be Positive in Your thinking
4. Guard your Mind
5. Meditate on God's Promises
6. Continually thank God for the Answer
7. Make Every Prayer a Statement of Faith

We will continue our study on faith next week.