

Praying with Accuracy
Study Guide

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If you really want to pray effectively and see results, there are several areas we will need to explore through this study of prayer:

- 1) How God sees us: the heart of God as He ministers to the basic needs of people.*
- 2) How God ministers: the methodology of Jesus Christ in His ministry to others.*
- 3) How the soul responds: how to minister to the soul of a human being.*
- 4) How to break through in prayer: the concept of your authority as a believer.*

(Bonfim, xix)

Through this study, you will have the opportunity to explore and reflect on each of these four aspects of prayer. To help you on this journey, this guide will provide you with key takeaways or summaries and questions to consider as you are going through the book.

 Key Takeaway

 Question to Consider

You can use these key takeaways and questions to guide your reflection as you strengthen your ability to pray with accuracy.

FOREWORD AND INTRODUCTION

 Prayer is a conversation or communication between God and human beings.

 As you read this book, reflect on the following questions:

- 1) How can I speak honestly with God about the needs of others?
- 2) How can I allow the Holy Spirit to respond to my prayers?
- 3) Do I need more boldness?
- 4) Do I believe that God will speak to me?

 The focus of your prayer is the *need* of the individual you are praying for. This is different from what they tell you they need help with and this is not a relief from consequences. Instead, your prayer should go to the core of their issue and address this need.

 How are your prayers going? How many times have you repeated the same prayer and hoped something new would happen?

**CHAPTER 1:
THE MINISTRY OF PRAYER**

 Information about a person’s true need does not come from what they communicate to you. Instead, information about their need comes from the Holy Spirit.

In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. (Rom. 8:26–27).

 How have you learned to minister to people in need? What or who has been your model?

 If you pray and you can feel God’s presence, but cannot hear God speak, then you may be elevating your feelings above God’s Word. If so, make a correction. It is only by faith that we can communicate with God, not through our feelings.

 Studying the Scripture is vital to powerful prayer because it adds to your discernment and increases your accuracy in identifying people’s true needs.

 Whose voice do you hear the loudest when you pray? Yours? A trusted pastor? The Holy Spirit?

 God is the source of all of our spiritual gifts; we cannot use any of these gifts without God first activating them within us.

 The Holy Spirit activates the gift of discernment within us so that we can be used by God to help others. We are only a tool of God.

 What spiritual gifts do you believe God has awoken in you?



What spiritual gifts do you think others would identify in you (i.e., Do others see something in you that you cannot see in yourself)?

**CHAPTER 2:
THE HEART OF GOD REGARDING NEED**

 You address all prayers to God, so to pray more effectively, you must understand the heart of God.

 Scripture tells us that all human need either concerns a problem with God or a problem with one another. Every person will be able to please the heart of God if they can both love God and love their neighbor.

 Think about something you have prayed for recently. Was the issue spiritual or relational?

 Effective prayer must begin with identifying whether the need is spiritual or relational.

- If the problem is spiritual, focus your prayers on speaking humility, obedience, trust, and healing anxious thoughts. Address these people with a peaceful heart, using comforting and encouraging words.

- If the problem is relational, focus your prayers on the individual who was historically the source of the relational issues.

? Using the issue you identified in the last question, how should you focus your prayers?
What should you pray for?

? What does the Bible say about this issue? How does the Scripture provide insight or direction regarding the issue you have prayed about?

**CHAPTER 3:
THE FOUR ROOTS**

? Think about a problem that you are personally struggling with. How have you been approaching this problem? Has your method of tackling this problem been effective?

KEY The four roots of human need are: a rejection of self, a rejection of God, unforgiveness, or bitterness.

- A spiritual need is either: a rejection of self or a rejection of God (rebellion toward God). The way that we perceive ourselves is reflected in the way that we see God.

- A relational need stems from either: unforgiveness or bitterness. Unforgiveness, if left unhealed, can become deeply entrenched and evolve into bitterness.

? Think about the problem that you are personally struggling with. Is your need spiritual or relational? What is the root of your need?

Spiritual or relational? _____

What is the root? _____

How do you know this? _____

Key After you have discerned the root of the problem, then you can begin to focus your prayers on the true need. By focusing on the true need, the Holy Spirit can then begin to supply you with the information necessary to form an accurate and effective prayer.

? Think about someone you have prayed for recently. How did they describe their issue? Was their need spiritual or relational? What was the root of their need?

How did they describe their issue? _____

Spiritual or relational? _____

What was the root? _____

How do you know this? _____

? How was the way they described their issue different from what you identified?

CHAPTER 4:
SPIRITUAL NEED: THE ROOT OF REJECTION OF SELF

 As Christians, we are called to witness God’s redemptive love to others. However, rejection of self prevents us from effectively witnessing because we do not feel that we are worthy of God’s unconditional love.

 Rejection of self occurs when we are first rejected by other people (e.g., family members, peers, or authority figures). If we experience deep rejection and this rejection is not appropriately healed, then this experience will cause us to feel that it is impossible to believe that we are truly loved by God.

 Think about the time when you first experienced a deep rejection. How did this rejection make you feel? How did it impact your relationship with God?

How did this make you feel? _____

How did it impact your relationship with God? _____

 When praying for someone who has experienced deep rejection, focus on healing the root of this rejection and not on condemning the person(s) who rejected them.

 The root of rejection of self causes a person to focus entirely on themselves, neglecting their prayer life and relationship with God in the process. Only Jesus can heal people from a deep rejection of self, so prayers need to be specifically targeted at the root of the rejection.

 Using what you have learned in this chapter, write a prayer for someone who was rejected by their parents when they were very young.

CHAPTER 5:
SPIRITUAL NEED: THE ROOT OF REJECTION OF GOD

KEY Rejection of God is rebellion toward God. This happens when we establish a preferred thought, idea, or concept above the knowledge of God in our hearts and minds. In other words, we decide how God should think or act and place our preference over the revealed truth of God.

? Think about a time when you have rebelled against God. What did you put above the revelation of God and His Word in your heart or mind?

KEY Rejection of God takes place in our thoughts, so it is a matter of the mind. Someone who rejects God is refusing to submit to Him. Instead of submitting to God's will, they are following their own intellect or the intellect of others.

? What would help you avoid this rebellion in the future?

 Rejection of God can be expressed in many different ways: pride, perfectionism, hypersensitivity, and relying on reasoning over revelation.

 Using what you have learned in this chapter, write a prayer for someone who is very well educated in religion, but lacks a relationship with God.

 Using what you have learned in this chapter, write a prayer for someone who insists that everything in their life must be perfect and goes to great lengths to strive for perfection.



CHAPTER 6:
RELATIONAL NEED: THE ROOT OF UNFORGIVENESS

 Why do you think it is so difficult for us to love our neighbors as ourselves?

 The root of unforgiveness destroys the peace that should live in the hearts of all Christians by creating an environment for suspicion, paranoia, anger, discord, envy, and strife.

 In order to minister to the root of unforgiveness, you first need to acknowledge that discord between human beings is common. Let the Holy Spirit guide you how to pray. By listening to the Holy Spirit's promptings, you will understand how the root of unforgiveness was formed and how it is expressed in that person.

 Think about a time when you have struggled with unforgiveness. How do you know that you were struggling with unforgiveness?

 Praying for someone suffering from the root of unforgiveness is different from rejection of self or rejection of God. Symptoms of unforgiveness include anger, detachment, unrest, and a critical spirit. Individuals with the root of unforgiveness have difficulty maintaining friendships because they keep their true selves hidden from others.

 When praying for someone struggling with unforgiveness, they may be uncomfortable at hearing the truth of their unforgiveness. They may insist that they have already forgiven everything, but look to the Holy Spirit for revelation regarding the person who has caused the root of the unforgiveness.

 Individuals with the root of unforgiveness find it difficult to forgive themselves and struggle to receive forgiveness from God.

 Using what you have learned in this chapter, write a prayer for someone who continues to deeply mourn their spouse who passed away ten years prior.

CHAPTER 7:
RELATIONAL NEED: THE ROOT OF BITTERNESS

 If the root of unforgiveness has not properly been dealt with then these unresolved feelings will lead to the root of bitterness.

 The root of bitterness is hatred and resentment that can fester over a lifetime or multiple generations. However, like love, bitterness is a choice.

 How do you think that the root of bitterness can be passed on to multiple generations?
Have you seen this when you are ministering to people?

 When you are praying to resolve the root of bitterness, you are praying for a miracle and your prayers must be based upon the revelation that God has given to you.

 You should ask questions when praying for a person who is struggling with the root of bitterness so that you understand more about the underlying events or issues that led to their bitterness.

 Bitterness brings death to the Holy Spirit because the Holy Spirit will not abide where there is bitterness. Someone who is full of bitterness cannot bear the fruits of the spirit—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control.

 How should you focus your prayer for someone who is struggling with the root of bitterness and attempting to control the people and situations in their lives?

 Individuals who are trapped in bitterness need to personally feel the revelation of love and mercy of God. However, in order to be a conduit for God and effectively pray for them to receive this revelation, you must believe that God can heal them.

 When you are praying about a serious problem, do not become preoccupied with what you should say. Instead, focus on what the Lord is going to do and what the Lord is calling you to do.

 What prevents you from boldly praying that God reveal Himself to others?

CHAPTER 8: THE MINISTRY OF JESUS

- 🔑 There is a consistent and repetitive method that Jesus used in His ministry: discernment, confirmation, root work, soul ministry, command and authority, contact and transmission, and checking around.

- 🔑 **Discernment:** Before beginning to minister, you must first be able to identify where ministry should begin. Discernment of the spirits allow us to see where God has already started moving in the environment and what we are called to do.

- 🔑 **Confirmation:** In this stage you are looking for evidence that your discernment (what you are hearing, seeing, or feeling) is correct. This provides encouragement to pursue the direction that has been given to you by the Holy Spirit.

- 🔑 **Root Work:** This addresses the deepest area of need. Once the root of the problem is identified, accurate ministry can begin.

- 🔑 **Soul Ministry:** This is the consistent and repetitive behavior in the ministry of Jesus Christ. This is the obedience to the Holy Spirit regarding the need of the person you are praying for.

 **Command and Authority:** A command is a statement that exercises authority over a condition of affliction, illness, or bondage. This statement must exercise the will of God.

 **Contact and Transmission:** Healing occurs at the moment you touch or speak to the person you are ministering to. Contact and transmission impart the blessing to the person in need.

 **Check Around:** The last stage in this method is to look to see where God is directing you next. While you may feel that you are done ministering to a particular person, there may be more that you are called to do for someone else.

 How is this method different from your typical approach to praying for and ministering to others?

 Choose one of the miracles of Jesus from the Gospels. Using this biblical story, identify the seven movements. Remember that one can flow into another in very rapid succession. Outline the passage and note at which point each movement occurs.

Biblical Passage(s): _____

Discernment: _____

Confirmation: _____

Root Work: _____

Soul Ministry: _____

Command and Authority: _____

Contact and Transmission: _____

Check Around: _____

CHAPTER 9:
WHAT “CONSISTENT AND REPETITIVE” LOOKS LIKE

 Consistent and repetitive efforts work together to produce a miracle.

 Throughout Jesus’ ministry, the consistent and repetitive elements of: discernment, confirmation, root work, soul ministry, command and authority, contact and transmission, and checking around are all present in stories about Jesus’ miracles.

 How does the story of Jesus’ healing of the blind man in Mark 10 illustrate discernment and confirmation?

 Have you experienced discernment and confirmation in your own prayer ministry?

? In Mark 10:51, Jesus asked the blind man what he wanted Jesus to do for him. Why is this step necessary?

? Why is it necessary to speak with command and authority? What prevents you from doing so in your own prayers?

CHAPTER 10:
MINISTRY TO REJECTION OF SELF CASE STUDY

This case study will illustrate the root of rejection of self by studying the methods of Jesus in Mark 5:21–24, 35–43.

? How did the crowds in this story provide Jesus with the gift of discernment? Why is it important to pay attention to your surroundings or other people when ministering to someone?

? What is Jairus’s root need? Why is it important to correctly identify the root need before proceeding in your prayer?

? What is the difference between speaking with command and authority and the act of contact or transmission? Why are both necessary?

CHAPTER 11: MINISTRY TO REJECTION OF GOD CASE STUDY

This case study will illustrate the root of rejection of God by studying the methods of Jesus in Mark 9:14–29.

Why is it necessary to begin your prayers with discernment of spirits? How is discernment of the spirits different from merely observing what is going on around you?

Why is confirmation a necessary step in the methodology? In this story, how was Jesus' prayer changed by confirmation?

? Do you use confirmation in your own prayer ministry? If so, how has it impacted what you ultimately pray for? If you do not, what has prevented you from using confirmation?

? Why is it necessary to check around after you have completed the prayer you were primarily focused on? What happened in the story when Jesus checked around?

CHAPTER 12: MINISTRY TO UNFORGIVENESS CASE STUDY

This case study will illustrate the root of unforgiveness by studying the methods of Jesus in Mark 2:1–13.

? How did Jesus know that the paralyzed man suffered from the root of unforgiveness?

? How do relational needs manifest in people? What physical clues might indicate a relational need?

Key The Scripture identifies five causes of illnesses: (1) sin; (2) the sins of others; (3) hereditary; (4) demonic; and (5) for the glory of God. Therefore, some illnesses are a product of sin and must be addressed accordingly.

? In this story, what does soul ministry look like? In your own prayers, do you find it difficult to engage in soul ministry? Why or why not?

CHAPTER 13: MINISTRY TO BITTERNESS CASE STUDY

This case study will illustrate the root of bitterness by studying the methods of Jesus in Mark 5:1–20.



In this chapter, the author tells a story about two men falling to the floor while he was preaching. How did discernment of the spirits help him to minister to both men?



Soul ministry is the time when you speak directly to the heart of the person you are ministering. When you are addressing the root of bitterness, what will help you reach this person?

? In Mark 5:1–20, Jesus casts demons out of a man who had been possessed for many years. In describing this story, the author says: “Remember, the object of ministry is the man, not the demons.” What does he mean by this? Why is this important in your own prayer ministry?

CHAPTER 14: MINISTRY TO THE SOUL

 When you are born again in Christ, the Holy Spirit causes your spirit to come alive so that you can commune with God. Our renewed spirits are holy, perfect, and complete.

 While we are on earth, our soul is the part of us that needs healing and sanctification. Our most intimate needs are felt in our soul, but the soul is complex, personal, and private. Given this, is it often difficult for a person who is suffering to identify what is wrong.

 Three elements comprise the soul: mind, will, and emotions.

- **Mind:** Your mind is your intellect and mental functioning. A prayer to renew or enlighten the mind must be initiated by a revelation from God and must target the root of the issue (e.g., unbelief, pride, confusion, rebellion, etc.).
- **Will:** The will is the area of the soul that decides, determines, and moves forward. Your will is God-given freedom to either accept or reject God.
- **Emotions:** Our emotions are our feelings that can manifest as happiness, love, joy, fear, excitement, grief, and countless others. Emotions are not always expressed, so you must rely on revelation and root work to properly address the issue.

 Based on your personal experience, what element of your soul causes the greatest barrier to your faith?

 When you minister to the soul, you are giving someone the opportunity to exercise their faith and to experience healing and wholeness in their whole body.

 A successful prayer must both begin and end with the soul.

 What element of the soul do you have the most difficulty ministering to? Why do you think it is difficult for you?

CHAPTER 15: THE ETHICS OF PRAYER

 Practicing ethical prayer means that you are: (1) acting to benefit the other person, above yourself; (2) working to glorify God; and (3) displaying sensitivity regarding the private information that God reveals to you.

 When praying, choose your words carefully so that the person that you are praying for feels that they are understood by God. This means that you should not use technical terms, such as root of rejection, but describe the feelings the individual is experiencing instead.

 Why is it important to choose your words carefully when you pray? How could using the wrong words impact the person you are praying for?

 How can the environment you are praying in impact the person receiving your prayers?

? This chapter describes several topics related to ethical prayer: semantics, sanctity, environment, interaction, gender factors, bedside manner, waiting, and the altar. Which of these factors do you believe needs the most work in your prayer ministry? What would help you improve this element?

CHAPTER 16: THE PRINCIPLE OF AUTHORITY

 Authority is the proper use of power in ministry. The Holy Spirit guides His power and uses us to do God's work.

 The power is God's; we should not try to possess God's power. We are servants of God and God uses us to do His work.

 Exercising authority in the name of Christ means that we are acting according to God's will and must represent His intention and character, not our own. This means that we must follow God's commands and wishes in the prayers we speak to others.

 The book explains that authority is based on revelation. What does this mean? How is this different from praying based off of feelings or emotion?

 There are three principles of revelation and authority:

- God's revelation for your prayer ministry will be accurate and specific.

- Revelation is given to specifically benefit the life of someone else.
- Revelation and authority depend on one another. Revelation communicates the urgency of the situation, as well as provides information and direction. This revelation is given so that the power of God can be discharged through authority.

 If authority is based on revelation, how does this change the way that you pray for others?

 The principle of authority means that we are not asking God to do something, but using the authority of God to command that something be done. Do not just comfort someone who is trapped in sin and despair, but use the power and authority of God to heal them and free them from bondage.

 The book *Praying with Accuracy* was designed to be applied. What principle discussed in the book stands out most to you? Which principle do you feel most convicted to begin to implement in your ministry?

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