

(Excerpts from the book “Answered Prayer Guaranteed,” by Frederick K.C. Price)

## Pray According to the Word of God

We have already discussed why the so-called “Lord’s Prayer” may not be appropriate for Christians today, but if it were, wouldn’t you say that it was formulaic? After all, you’d be saying the same thing almost every time. The same is true of our petition prayers today. If you are praying in line with the Word and, for example, you are asking for healing, then your prayer is going to be based on the same few scriptures every time.

*Father, today I ask that You heal me of this stomach condition. Your Word says in 1 Peter 2:24 that by His stripes I was healed. In Isaiah Your Word says that Jesus has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows. Therefore, Lord, I thank You that according to Your Word I have the promise that I am healed.*

Knowing the specific scriptures to include in your prayers requires some work by you. You must go through the Bible and find out what has been promised to the Jews specifically (i.e., what would not apply to you as a modern American). Then find out what has been promised to Abraham’s seed (that is, the Jews and those who inherited the promises made to the Jews, which would be Christians). Finally, find out those things that are promised to Christians specifically. As an illustration, earlier I suggested that you read Deuteronomy 28. One-third of that chapter contains blessings for those who are obedient to God. This portion of Scripture was not directed at the Jews only but included those who were the descendants of the Jews. We find there:

And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the LORD your God: Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the country. Blessed shall be the fruit of your body [your children], the produce of your ground and the increase of your herds, the increase of your cattle and the offspring of your flocks. —DEUTERONOMY 28:2–4

There were no special qualifications for obtaining these blessings other than obedience to the Lord. Based on these verses, you know that it is God's will for you to be blessed whether you live in the city or in a rural area. Your children should also be blessed and therefore should not suffer from diseases like ADD, SIDs, or any other disease. Moreover, while today we don't farm and therefore don't have lots of "ground" or "herds" or "cattle" or "flocks," that doesn't mean we don't have claim to this promise. Ground and herds and flocks were merely the way most people made a living in that time. Today our equivalent would be to say "in *your factories*, in *your investment houses*, in *your work*, and in *your job*." Cattle and flocks were currency in those days—they were stores of wealth. So it's fully legitimate to substitute, "... the produce of your investment and retirement accounts and the increase of your bank and checking accounts and the multiplication of your finances." We can make the same conclusions in verse 5, which says, "Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl." People kept their grain in baskets and made it into bread in kneading bowls. This verse is saying that we should be blessed in our financial dealings when we turn raw materials or labor into profits. Verse 6 echoes verse 3: "Blessed shall you be when you come in and blessed shall you be when you go out." That pretty much covers everything you do, because you would be blessed all the time, everywhere. Verse 7 continues by saying, "The LORD will cause your enemies who rise against you to be defeated before your face; they

shall come out against you one way and flee before you seven ways.” This is true for individuals as well as for nations whose hearts are directed toward God. On an individual basis, the Bible is telling you that you will have enemies and that they will rise against you. You won’t get away from that. But they will be “defeated before your face.” So it is fully legitimate to pray for your enemies’ defeat—and this implies that you will have a hand in that defeat. The verse does not say that God will kill them before they even get to you— in fact, the verse indicates they will get in your face. You must be the one who defeats them, but *they will be defeated*. The Bible indicates that you will witness their defeat as they “come out against you one way and flee before you seven ways.”

In verse 8, it is written: “The LORD will command the blessing on you in your store houses and in all to which you set your hand, and He will bless you in the land which the LORD your God is giving you.”

In Abraham’s times, farmers had storehouses where they kept their surplus. Today we also have storehouses where we *store* our surplus for later or to sell. Our storehouses are our bank accounts, our stock and bond portfolios, and our IRA/Keough accounts. This verse tells me that God will “command the blessing” on you. That’s pretty powerful stuff, to command a blessing on your storehouses. There is much, much more, but you get the idea. From just a few verses in Deuteronomy and 1 Peter, we have discovered that you have a right to pray for healing and for prosperity, as well as for the health of your children and for victory over your enemies. Imagine how much more is promised to you in the rest of the Bible! However, you must expend the effort to find it. Once you find it on your own, you will never forget it, and, more importantly, you will never doubt that it is God’s

will. And you will know specifically the blessings of God for which you should be praying. You should never, ever, tack “if it be Your will” onto the end of a petition prayer. By doing so you are indicating that, in fact, you do not know God’s will. John said that if we pray *according to His will*, our prayers are answered. It would be impossible for me to list everything you would be legitimately allowed to pray for according to God’s Word, because I cannot envision every situation that might come up in your life. Even if I gave you general guidelines for praying about money, or relationships, or whatever the case, it would defeat the purpose—in that you need to find it so that you know what is in the Word. However, let me give you just one more example of what you may legitimately claim. Psalm 91:10 says, “No evil shall befall you, nor shall any plague come upon your dwelling.” Here is the *catch*. If you don’t know that verse, you cannot confess what you don’t know, and you will be unable to use the blessings of the Word to be protected from any “plague” (like the bird flu, for example) coming near your dwelling. Hosea 4:6 quotes God as saying, “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.” Note that God did not say, “My people are destroyed for lack of *faith*,” or even “My people are destroyed for lack of *love*.” If you have the knowledge, you at least know how to build your faith and to develop more of a loving spirit, but without the knowledge, you are history! Here is your assignment: go through the New Testament (we’ll limit it to the New Testament for now) and underline every time you find the phrase “You have” or “we have” when it relates to the phrase “in Christ.” What do we have, or what do you have, in Christ? You will be shocked to see how much we are promised. Psalm 84:11 said of God, “No good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly.” James said, “Every good and perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights” (James 1:17). In the Epistles of John we have a clear example of prayer that lists some of the blessings to which we are entitled. In 3 John 2, in a letter addressed

to a fellow Christian and elder named Gaius, John said: Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers. The apostle of the Lord was telling Gaius, a fellow believer, that his prayer for him was that he “prosper in all *things*.” And to make sure we didn’t miss his meaning, John wrote, “just as your soul prospers,” indicating that he was praying for “things” apart from the spirit world. Some people try to claim that by “things,” John meant spiritual things, but it is abundantly clear by this verse that this isn’t the case. Note that John also prayed for Gaius’s health. So if it was all right for John to pray for Gaius’s prosperity, for Gaius’s health, and for Gaius’s soul to prosper, don’t you think *Gaius could also legitimately pray for those things for himself?* I do, and I’m sure Gaius did.