

Keys to the Kingdom

Keys revealed to unlock Heaven in your corner of the earth



Kathy Wypij

Foreword by Dr. Bill Hamon

Endorsements

“*Keys to the Kingdom* is a great read for those who are seeking to grow in their relationship to Christ and His kingdom. Kathy has captured the essence of kingdom living that will apply to your life, regardless of your age and stage of growth. Using biblical wisdom and personal life experiences, this book will meet you where you are at and take you to greater depths of insight and understanding about life in God’s kingdom.”

Jeff Hokenson, Senior Pastor, Pioneer Christian Fellowship, Arcade, New York

“This book is a must for establishing foundational truths and advancing the Kingdom in the hearts and minds of men and women. These keys will avert deception from ‘every wind of doctrine’ sweeping through the church and empower the saints to seize their destiny.

Pastors and leaders will want to use this powerful tool for building and repairing foundations in the lives of their people. I highly recommend *Keys to the Kingdom* for every pastor, leader, and saint.”

Apostle Barbara Burkholder, New York/Ontario Regional Leader for Christian International, Founder, co-pastor of Sword of The Spirit Ministries, Buffalo, New York

“I greatly love and appreciate those who live out of victorious faith no matter the circumstances or seasons they are in. Kathy is one of those. You will benefit and be blessed as you read *Keys to the Kingdom*.”

Apostle John W. Bowers, Tri-State Regional Leader for Christian International, Senior Pastor, Grace Fellowship Int. Church, Erie, Pennsylvania

Keys to the Kingdom

Keys revealed to unlock the doors of heaven
in your corner of the earth

Kathy Wypij



Keys to the Kingdom

Published by:

Christian International

177 Apostles Way

Santa Rosa Beach, FL 32459

www.christianinternational.com

ISBN 978-0-9857141-0-9

Copyright © 2012 by Kathy Wypij

Printed in the United States of America

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form by any means—electronic, mechanical, digital photocopy, recording, or any other without the prior permission of the author.

All rights reserved solely by the author. The author guarantees all contents are original and do not infringe upon the legal rights of any other person or work. No part of this book may be reproduced in any form without the permission of the author.

Scripture quotations marked “NKJV™” are taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotes marked (KJV) are taken from *Holy Bible, King James Version*.

Scripture quotations marked NLT are taken from the *Holy Bible, New Living Translation*, copyright © 1996, 2004, 2007. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations from **THE MESSAGE**. Copyright © by Eugene H. Peterson 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 2000, 2001, 2002. Used by permission of NavPress Publishing Group.

Scripture quotations marked (NIV) are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®, Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. www.zondervan.com. The NIV and New International Version are trademarks registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office by Biblica, Inc.™

Scripture quotations marked (AMP) are taken from the *Amplified Bible*, Copyright © 1954, 1958, 1962, 1964, 1965, 1987 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission.

Contents

Foreword	I
Acknowledgements	III
Introduction	V
1. Thy Kingdom Come	1
2. The Master Key	9
3. The Keys of Prayer and Fasting	19
4. The Key of Pressing In	37
5. The Key of the Name of Jesus	45
6. The Key of Spiritual Warfare	49
7. The Key of David	63
8. The Key of Faithfulness and the Key Chain	69
9. Unlocking Spiritual Gifts	81
10. The Key of Your Personal Prayer Language	95
11. Keys to Receiving God's Grace	105
12. The Key of Forgiveness	119
13. The Key of Love	129
14. The Key of Unity	139
15. The Key of Giving	147
16. The Key of Praise	155
17. The Key of Proclamation	167
18. Has Anyone Seen my Keys?	173
19. Turning the Key	181
20. Key Duplication	187
21. Thy Kingdom is at Hand	193

Foreword

“Heaven on earth” is an old cliché that has been used for years, yet for the most part, seen as unattainable by the average Christian. Kathy’s book, *Keys to the Kingdom*, gives you the line upon line teaching and step by step instruction necessary to make this old cliché a reality in the life of the reader. This is a spiritual book made practical.

Kathy has been a licensed minister with us at Christian International Apostolic Network for many years now. She is a faithful wife and mother of two boys, now grown. Kathy has been teaching and ministering in the local church for over twenty years. Her experience qualifies her to write and speak on a variety of spiritual topics making Kingdom living a reality in the life of the reader who takes a hold of and uses the keys revealed inside.

Having authored my recent book, *70 Reasons for Speaking in Tongues*, I was glad to see Kathy’s chapter, *The Key of Your Personal Prayer Language*. This important key has been both lost and underused by the majority of the church today. Kathy brings fresh inspiration on this subject with her personal stories and her teaching underscores the importance of this essential Kingdom Key.

A proper spiritual foundation is critical to build upon. This book is a definite *must* for those in need of a strong foundation. The truths found in this book will also help to repair cracked or incomplete foundations in the lives of the saints.

Keys to the Kingdom will be a blessing to the local church for use in a large variety of areas such as: Bible studies, Sunday school, and small group studies. This book will also benefit the saint for use in marketplace ministry by equipping them to lead and instruct others

in living a powerful and faith filled life by stepping them through the realities of spiritual truths and placing in their hands the keys to The Kingdom of God on earth.

You have this book in your hand, now read it and take a hold of the keys that lie within to open up the Kingdom of God around you.

Dr. Bill Hamon, Bishop/Founder of Christian International Ministries Network

Books by Dr. Bill Hamon

Prophetic Scriptures Yet to be Fulfilled—3rd Reformation

70 Reasons for Speaking in Tongues—Your Own Built in Spiritual Dynamo

The Day of the Saints

Who Am I and Why Am I Here

Apostles, Prophets and the Coming Moves of God

Prophets and Personal Prophecy

Prophets and the Prophetic Movement

Prophets Pitfalls and Principles

The Eternal Church

The Eternal Church Hardback

Birthing God's Purpose

Prophets Destiny and Apostolic Reformation

Fulfilling Your Personal Prophecy

Acknowledgements

I'd like to thank Dr. Bill Hamon for his leadership and the writing of my foreword. He is a true Father to many. Thank you to Pastor Jeff Hokenson, Apostle John Bowers, and Apostles John and Barbara Burkholder for their leadership and friendship in my life. Their prayers and input is greatly appreciated.

Joan Schofield, Joyce Hackett, Melody Larivey, Michele Trotter, and Jennifer Burton I thank for all their prayers and input into this book. Also, I give thanks to the many other intercessors who helped me out in prayer as I wrote. God bless you all!

I want to thank my loving husband, Mike for all his patience and loving support while I wrote this book.

Most of all, I want to thank my loving Lord Jesus Christ for preparing this work for me in advance in heaven and trusting me to write it!

Introduction

“And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” (Matt. 16:19 New King James Version)

What are the keys to the Kingdom and how do I operate in them? The answers to these questions lie inside this book. Heaven can be opened in your corner of the earth. The keys to His Kingdom need only to be revealed unto you so you can use them to unlock His glory in your life.

God called me to write this book to reveal some primary Kingdom keys to you for your daily use. The keys revealed inside this book will give you practical knowledge which when applied – will unlock God’s grace and glory in your life. With due diligence, you will become a “master keeper of the keys” and will help unlock heaven on earth to those around you by applying the Kingdom principles within.

God so desires for His Kingdom to be established here on earth. He has made His keys available to you and desires *you* to unlock His grace as you co-labor with Him.

Read on my friend, to discover and refresh yourself in practical Kingdom principles to unlock heaven in your corner of the earth. Doors await and the keys are *yours!*

Chapter Two

THE MASTER KEY

“I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” (Matt. 16:19 NIV)

Qualified to Receive

Keys open and keys close. Opening heaven on earth is a matter of unlocking God’s power and grace into our fallen world. These keys are given to us by God. What qualifies us to receive these keys is becoming a citizen of the Kingdom of God, by making Jesus Christ the Lord and Savior of our lives. This simply means you asked Jesus Christ to come into your life and to forgive you of your sins and become the leader of your life.

When we come to Jesus with the faith of a child asking Him to forgive us our sins and to come into our heart, we are born again by the Spirit of God. This means our once dead spirits are now made alive to God. (See John 3:1-16.) We come into this world naturally as a baby and we are “born again” spiritually as babies as well. It is a new birth.

A popular baby’s toy is a plastic ring of keys. Babies love to jiggle and shake a colorful set of plastic keys. As the children grow, they learn that real keys can go into a keyhole and be turned to open or lock up a door. Small children are amazed with the power held in a single small key! We don’t trust a child with real keys to our homes, offices and

automobiles until they are much older and able to be responsible enough to be trusted with them.

When I was a young girl, my parents used to hide the key to the house in the dog house. That was a safe place because our German Shepherd would attack anyone who came near! I of course, could crawl into the dog house, pat “Princess” on the head, and grab the key with no problem. I was taught the responsibility of returning the key to the dog house after each use. So it is with God our father. God’s keys are hidden and out of reach from the world. Not just anyone can have access to His keys, only His children qualify.

Our salvation is the key that opens the door into God’s house for us. God, however, let us through the door. He holds the key. When we asked Jesus into our lives, faith turned the lock and the door of heaven was opened to us. As a patient parent, God waits for us to come to a spiritual maturity where we can be trusted with the keys to His house—His Kingdom. He then gives us a key and teaches us how to use it. He watches us to see how we handle this new responsibility before giving us another. Father God wants us to have childlike faith, but He also desires for us to grow up in being responsible. As we grow spiritually, more and more keys are entrusted to us.

The Master Key

“When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?” They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of

Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the *keys of the kingdom* of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” (Matt. 16:13-19 NIV Emphasis added)

Jesus asked the disciples what people were saying about Him. Who did they think He was? There were many rumors going around about who Jesus was. Jesus then asked Simon Peter who he believed He was. Peter replied in faith, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Jesus was well pleased with Peter’s bold proclamation of faith! Jesus then replied that Peter was blessed, for it was not man that revealed this to him, but His Father in heaven. Here lies the **master key of revelation**.

Just as in a hotel there are many rooms, doors, locks, and keys, yet there is one master key that will open all the doors, even so, with God’s Kingdom there are many doors and keys, yet everything is made open to us with one master key—the key of revelation! The hotel manager keeps this master key in a safe place until needed. God is like that hotel manager, He holds onto the key until we need it, and He reveals His knowledge to us as we seek Him. His revealed knowledge from heaven literally opens up what was previously locked up in our lives.

It was God who revealed to Peter that Jesus was the Christ. It is God who revealed to you that Jesus is your personal Lord and Savior. This revelation literally opened up the Kingdom of God to you. You may have heard it preached that Jesus was Lord but when you realized it was true, that Jesus was alive and died for you to be saved, you received revelation. This revelation allowed you to believe in your heart and to confess Jesus as Lord by asking Him to come into your heart and live forever.

Jesus said, upon this rock (the rock of revelation knowledge) I will build my church. Peter is not the rock, Jesus is our rock. The church is built upon Jesus Christ and the revelation that He gives.

The revelation of who He is and of His love for us is the first revelation we receive. This foundational revelation is the first that opened the door

of heaven for you. Likewise all other keys are revealed in this same way, through revelation of the Spirit of God.

Jesus is building His church through the key of revelation. He desires to reveal Himself more and more to you and through you to others. He desires to reveal truths to you and desires for you to share the Good News you have received with others. Continual revelation in your life becomes the ever precious and valuable master key. Through this master key, what was locked up from you will be opened up to you. God desires to open up His word to you and show you marvelous things.

The Book of Revelation is the last book in the Bible. It is a book of revelation God revealed to John about the last things. However, revelation is more than just a book of the Bible. Just as John received from God, so can we. The revelations we receive are not new truths, but they can be new to us. When God shows us something, we are usually like, “Wow, I never saw it like that before!” It is like the light goes on, so to speak. His word is illuminated to us. When that happens to you, you received a revelation! Other times, it is a truth that we have known, but God brings it to us afresh, so that it becomes a “word in season” for us, meaning, it is a word from God that was exactly what we needed to hear, and it came at a perfect time.

Is the Key Genuine?

Nothing is worse than having a key made and getting it home only to find out that it is a faulty key and won't open your door! Oh, it looked alright upon first inspection. It was shiny and new and you paid good money for it, but there was a slight flaw when it was ground out, and that slight flaw is enough to hinder the key from doing its job. So back to the store you go, to return the faulty key and have another made. The new key is not deemed official, you tell yourself, until it is tested by inserting it into the lock and turning the door. You arrive home and gingerly insert the key into the lock, hoping you won't have to make another trip to the hardware store, and “voila,” the door opens! The key is good! They do know what they are doing at the local hardware store!

All revelations we receive, like house keys, need to be tested. We test them by holding them up to the written word of God for comparison. There are no additional spiritual truths beyond what God has revealed in His written word.

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.” (2 Tim. 3:16-17 NIV)

The Bible, is “God-breathed,” that means that God said it. It is the word of God. Contrary to popular belief, truth is absolute, and it is found in God’s word—the Bible. His written word is the standard we use to test all words of revelation we receive. If it lines up with the written word of God, it is good. If it does not line up with the written word of God, it is a faulty key. Faulty keys need to be discarded.

“Do not quench the Spirit. Do not treat prophecies with contempt but test them all; hold on to what is good.” (1 Thess. 5:19-21 NIV)

All words are to be tested by the written word of God. Both words we believe we receive from God, and inspired words we receive from others, need to be held up to the standard of the word of God and tested for accuracy.

The Bible is our daily guide to life. Inside it we find the keys to open up heaven on earth. Yes, it is our **daily guide**. We cannot expect to hear from God and receive keys of revelation from Him if we are not spending time in His written word.

Daily Bread

“...man doth not live by bread only, but by every *word* that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live.” (Deut. 8:3 KJV)

During Old Testament times, when Moses was leading the Israelites through the wilderness, God fed His people with manna—actual bread

from heaven, for a season of time. Every morning this manna appeared on the ground and resembled dew. God gave them instructions as to how much to gather every morning for each of them and their families. It was to be eaten that same day and not kept overnight (except for on the Sabbath day). On the day before the Sabbath, God instructed them to gather enough for that day and for the Sabbath day as well, so they would be able to rest on the Sabbath. However, some of them disobeyed the Lord and kept the manna overnight. It then grew moldy. The Lord was displeased with this. (See Exod. 16:14-36.)

We also are to receive our daily bread from the Lord. Our spirits need spiritual food to eat just like our bodies need physical food to eat every day. Every morning we need to rise up and give ourselves to God's word, seeking Him. As we do, He feeds us with His word. His word nourishes our spirits.

Many Christians today wonder why they are spiritually run down when the only spiritual food they are getting is the sermon on Sunday morning. If you only ate one meal a week of natural food, what shape would you be in physically? Going without food leads to starvation. Many Christians are suffering from spiritual malnutrition simply because they are not feeding on God's word daily. This causes them to be weak and spiritually malnourished. Feeding daily on God's word will build you up and keep you spiritually fit and healthy.

I used to have an aunt, Aunt Jane, who lived to be just a few days short of one hundred years old. I loved her dearly, and was honored to be one of her caretakers in her last years. She used to tell me, "I don't feel like eating anymore, I eat because I know I must." She had lost her appetite in the last years of her life, but she would discipline herself to eat anyway. That is what we must do; discipline ourselves to feed on the word of God daily. If you let your feelings motivate you in this you will be spiritually deprived. Our spirits are willing, the Bible says, but our flesh is weak. It doesn't have to be a large portion of Scripture, but read something every day, and chew on it throughout the day. Some Bibles are made to be read in one year. They are divided up into daily readings for you, usually an Old Testament portion, a New Testament portion,

and a Psalm or Proverb. These readings usually only take about twenty minutes a day to read. I have taken them to work with me and read during my breaks. It's a great thing to do with a spouse or friend because you can hold each other accountable and encourage each other. When you are feeling spiritually weak, read an extra portion of God's word and He will strengthen you. "My soul is weary with sorrow; strengthen me according to your word." (Ps. 119:28 NIV) The word of God is like honey. "How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!" (Ps. 119:103 NIV) I have heard it said that eating honey helps to increase your appetite. So as you eat the honey of God's word, you will have an appetite for more. God's word is sweet like honey!

Different Translations

You might ask, "Which translation of the Bible is the best?" I believe the best translation is the one you actually read. You see, the word of God does no good sitting on your coffee table and collecting dust. You must read and study it in order to benefit from it. I know some people who like to argue about which translation is the best. Instead of arguing, I just encourage people to read the Bible they have or like, no matter which version it is. It does no good to try to force people to read a version they don't like or can't understand. If people want to know what the original language says, then they need to study the languages of Greek and Hebrew, however, unless you really want to become a Bible scholar that is not really necessary. You can gain a lot more in depth meaning, however, by using a good Bible concordance.

There are many translations of the Bible. I will only be using a few of the many in this book. Some translations are "word by word" translations. That basically means they are more literal. Though these versions are literal, they can also be difficult to read. Other Bible translations are more of a "thought by thought" translation. That means it was not translated literally, but rather to communicate the basic thought. "Thought by thought" translations are much easier to read. They communicate the verses in modern language and cut through the

idioms (expressions of speech). This makes the meaning clearer to the reader.

The King James Version (KJV) and The New King James Version (NKJV) are both word by word translations, making them very good for word study. Some people like the KJV, but others find the Old English words difficult and clumsy. The NKJV is like the KJV except it cuts out the Old English words like “Thee,” making it much more readable.

The New International Version (NIV) and The New Living Translation (NLT) are both more “thought by thought” translations. They are written in modern language and therefore are easier to read. Some people insist that The Message is a paraphrase. However, it was translated from the original languages and therefore does qualify as an actual “thought by thought” translation. The Amplified Version is distinctive because it really does “amplify” the meaning. No, it doesn’t make it louder (ha ha) but it does add more in-depth meaning from the Hebrew and Greek.

I used a few different Bible translations in the writing of this book to expose you to some you may be unfamiliar with. A new translation can be inspirational because it can bring you fresh insight from God’s word.

I have many different translations of the Bible. Some I use for word study and others I use for devotional reading. It’s always good to check out another translation for how it depicts a certain verse to gain further insight. I like to read devotional Bibles because they are in everyday language. After all, who uses “thou art” anymore? Nobody! Regardless of which one you choose, the important thing is to read God’s word on a daily basis so you can grow spiritually and live a victorious life.

The Holy Spirit is the Teacher

The Holy Spirit is our teacher. He is the one who makes the word of God alive to us. When Jesus died and rose from the grave, He went to heaven, but He sent His Holy Spirit to live with us and to be our guide.

“All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.” (John 14:25-26 NIV)

The Holy Spirit is here. We only need to ask Him to daily fill us and to teach us. He teaches us the Scriptures, and helps us to apply God’s word to our daily lives. He also brings all things to our remembrance. He is a gentle teacher who teaches us one truth at a time, line upon line, precept upon precept.

Every day we need to yield to the Spirit of God. The Holy Spirit is a gentleman and therefore He never forces Himself on us but needs to be invited. Usually we call our first such filling of the Holy Spirit, being “baptized in the Spirit.” Additional fillings of the Holy Spirit are called being “filled with the Spirit.” The Bible tells us that we need to be filled with His Spirit on a daily basis.

Hit the Refresh Button

At my job, I am on a computer all day. In order to receive my newest e-mail messages, I must hit the “refresh” button, then the new messages pop up for me to read. It is the same in the spiritual. We all need to be refreshed often by the Holy Spirit and to receive His timely words for our lives. He refreshes us and brings new messages to our hearts from God. Ask Him to refresh you, and receive your new messages from God. Hit the refresh button!

As we invite the Holy Spirit to come and we yield our spirit to Him, He comes like a gentle breeze. He makes His entrance known by allowing us to feel the joy of His Presence. As we call upon Him and yield our spirit to His, He eagerly responds to our invitation. Our souls are refreshed in His Presence.

The Spirit of God longs to come and fill you afresh. He longs to teach you the deep truths of God’s word and to speak personally to you. He longs to guide you and to help you throughout your day.

Pause with me a moment and pray for His Spirit to come and fill you. As you pray, yield your spirit to His in sweet surrender.

Prayer of Yielding to the Holy Spirit

Dear Holy Spirit, I yield myself to You. Please come Holy Spirit and fill me. I want to get to know you better. Lead me and teach me wonderful things from God's word. Open up doors of understanding to me by revelation. Bring Your word to my remembrance. Help me to recognize your leadings and promptings throughout the day. Please fill me with Your sweet Presence. I pray in Jesus' name, Amen.

Chapter Three

THE KEYS OF PRAYER AND FASTING

“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.” (Eph. 6:18 NIV)

Opening heaven on earth is impossible without prayer. Prayer is simply talking to God. When I was a child, I was brought up in a mainline denomination. Learning the Lord’s Prayer was one of the first prayers I learned as a child. I can remember sitting on the floor cross-legged reciting the Lord’s Prayer with my older sister, Karen. We would say it over and over again putting it to memory. It also was the prayer Jesus taught His disciples when they asked Him to teach them to pray **“...Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth. Give us day by day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil” (Luke 11: 2-4 KJV).**

The Lord’s Prayer is a great prayer to memorize, however, it is much more than that—it is Jesus’ own model prayer—teaching us the key points we need to talk to our Father God about.

The Model of the Lord’s Prayer

Our Father which art in heaven

Here we call God our “Father.” Thinking of God only as “God” is an impersonal way of approaching Him. However, coming to Him as your loving Father, allows you as His child, to draw near to Him. The world doesn’t have the benefit of knowing God as their father, but we—His children are privileged to call him “our Father.” As you draw near to your heavenly Father, you enter into a deep relationship with him as your “Daddy God.” He desires you to draw near and share the concerns of your heart with Him.

If you had an abusive Father or one who was absent, it may be difficult for you to think of God as a loving Father. However, Father God is a loving and tender Father indeed. As you develop a close relationship with Him as your heavenly Father, your childhood pains will begin to heal. He desires to heal you from the pain of the past and to reveal Himself to you as your loving and caring Father.

Sometimes, I like to imagine I am sitting right on Father God’s lap! I see Him with white hair and a beard and wearing a tender smile. I imagine Him holding me close and comforting me from life’s difficulties. Drawing near to Him in this way brings a deepened relationship and closeness to God. I like to imagine myself snuggling up to Him and resting peacefully in His strong arms.

Hallowed Be Thy Name

The word hallowed means holy. Here we are telling God how holy He is! Here we are giving Him the honor He deserves. This is the appropriate way to approach God, by giving Him honor and telling Him how wonderful He is. **“Enter into His gates with thanksgiving. And into His courts with praise....” (Ps. 100:4 NKJV)**

Tell God how great He is and how beautiful He is. Tell Him how glorious His name is. Give Him praise, for He is greatly to be praised! Doing so also lifts you up. As you lift Him up, He touches your heart.

Thy Kingdom Come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven

Here we are actually asking God to bring heaven to the earth. We are asking Him for it to be done on earth just like it is in heaven. If you want

to know what God's will is, look within His word. Jesus here instructs us to pray for God's Kingdom to come to the earth. He wants us to pray for His will to be done here on earth, now!

There is no evil in heaven. Sickness, disease, crime, and hatred do not exist there. When you pray against evil and for God's blessing, you are actually praying for heaven on earth. The Bible tells us that we have not for we ask not. (See James 4:2.) Ask for His Kingdom to come in your family, and community.

Pause and Pray

Pause with me now and pray for those people and circumstances that are coming to your heart and mind. Pray with me:

Father God, I praise Your Holy Name! You alone are worthy to be praised! I thank You that You desire to bring heaven to my corner of the earth. You desire to see Your Kingdom made a reality in my family. Please reveal Yourself to my family members (insert names here). May Your Kingdom come into my community. Please heal those who are hurting and draw those who don't know You into an awareness of who You are. Pour out heaven on earth and bring a fresh move of God throughout our land. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**“...The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.”
(James 5:16 NKJV)**

Be Willing to be Part of the Answer

I remember one day years ago when I was praying, I asked God to send someone to one of our family members to speak to him. I was earnestly in prayer about it. I said, “God, please send perfect laborers to my loved one.” The Lord surprised me by speaking. He said, “I hope the next person I send doesn't ask Me to send someone else!” I was astounded! I said, “Lord, You mean You want **me** to speak to him?” Funny, but that had never crossed my mind before. I guess I just felt inadequate. The truth is, God is sending **you**. He desires to use **you**. So when you pray, be open to the very real possibility that God may want

you to be part of the answer to that prayer! You may be the very one to make a difference in someone's life. Ask God to use you to expand His Kingdom on the earth. It is amazing after praying this way the doors of opportunity that open up during what would have otherwise been an ordinary day.

Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread

Ask the Lord daily to provide for both your physical and spiritual needs. Some people feel selfish praying for themselves. It is not selfish. The book of James says that we have not because we ask not! Now if you never pray for anyone else, well that is selfish. However, we must ask God in prayer for our needs.

Our daily bread, is not just natural bread, but spiritual as well. He desires to bless you physically and spiritually. God's word is your daily bread. His word feeds your soul. As you pray and read the written word of God, pray for Him to speak to you. He will feed your soul with the bread of His living word. He also will meet your physical needs. Pray specifically about your needs, and leave it in His hands.

God never fails to surprise me in how He works out the details of my concerns. A few years ago, Mike and I were in need of a new car. Actually, we didn't need a brand new car, just a newer car than what we had. We began praying about it. We knew we desired a Subaru Outback, so we prayed specifically for a Subaru Outback. We also prayed specifically about the year we wanted the car to be and the dollar amount we wanted to spend.

Then the search began. We looked and looked and found nothing! One day the Lord spoke to me and said to stop looking, He wanted to bring the car to us! I called my husband at work to tell him what the Lord had said. He agreed we should stop looking and wait on God.

That very week, a man approached Mike at work and said; "I hear you are looking for a Subaru Outback" (apparently, word had gotten out). This man needed to sell the car immediately because he needed the cash. It was exactly the car we were looking for except a few years newer! The price was perfect! Even the color was perfect! God is "able

to do exceedingly and abundantly above all that we ask or think” (Eph. 3:20 KJV).

God does supply us our daily bread, both physically, and spiritually. When God speaks to us like that and answers our prayers it is like heaven on earth! He is so personal and loves us so much. We need only to draw near to Him!

And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us.

Forgiveness is essential to the Christian life. It is so important that I devoted an entire chapter to it, for it is indeed a primary key to the Kingdom. Sometimes we pray this portion like this... “Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.” In this part of the Lord’s Prayer, we are asking God to forgive us in the same way we forgive other people! Think about what that means. Do you really want God to forgive you in the same way that you forgive others? Well, yes if you are a forgiving person, but if you are an unforgiving person, then no. God has forgiven us, so we need to extend forgiveness to others. Pray and ask the Lord to forgive you of your sins, then think of those who sinned against you, and prayerfully forgive them. As we extend forgiveness to others, God looks down and smiles upon us.

And lead us not into Temptation but Deliver us from Evil

“Keep watch and pray, so that you will not give in to temptation... .” (Mark 14:38 New Living Translation)

Temptation is not sin. However, it becomes sin when we yield to it. Temptation is something everyone will experience in life. In the beginning, while in the Garden of Eden, temptation came to Adam and Eve to disobey God by eating the forbidden fruit. Temptation becomes sin when it is yielded to.

Jesus understands the temptations we go through because He was tempted also. Jesus was tempted yet did not sin. “For we do not have a

High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all *points* tempted as *we are*, yet without sin.” (Heb. 4:15 NKJV)

Jesus was tempted by the devil three times in the wilderness. Each time Jesus resisted the devil with the word of God and in this way overcame the temptations.

“Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted there by the devil. For forty days and forty nights he fasted and became very hungry. During that time the devil came and said to him, ‘If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become loaves of bread.’ But Jesus told him, ‘No! The Scriptures say, ‘People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ Then the devil took him to the holy city, Jerusalem, to the highest point of the Temple, and said, ‘If you are the Son of God, jump off! For the Scripture says, ‘He will order the angels to protect you. And they will hold you up with their hands so you won’t even hurt your foot on a stone.’ Jesus responded, ‘The Scriptures also say, ‘You must not test the LORD your God.’ Next the devil took him to the peak of a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ‘I will give it all to you,’ he said, if you will kneel down and worship me.” “Get out of here, Satan,” Jesus told him. “For the Scriptures say, ‘You must worship the LORD your God and serve only him.’ Then the devil went away, and the angels came and took care of Jesus.” (Matt. 4:1-11 NLT)

Jesus taught us to pray to not be led into temptation, but he also set an example for us by resisting the temptations with the word of God. We

also are to resist the devil by using God's word. "...Resist the devil and he will flee from you." (James 4:7 NKJV) To resist is to do something to stand against something. Most people think it means to ignore the devil, but that is not what it says. It says to resist him. The word "resist" means to oppose or stand against. We are to use the Scriptures to resist the devil.

Three times Jesus defeated Satan by saying, "It is written..." Likewise we are to overcome the evil one by quoting the word of God. We are to hide the word in our hearts that we might not sin against Him. (See Ps. 119:11.) The Holy Spirit is faithful; He will bring the word of God to your remembrance. Then you can speak forth the truth of God's word and resist the devil and he will flee.

Jesus also went through His greatest temptation in the Garden of Gethsemane, for it was here He struggled with His mission of going to the cross. In the garden, Jesus prayed that if it was the Father's will, to take the cup from Him. Then He added ... "yet not my will, but yours be done" (Luke 22:42 NIV). Jesus suffered to the point of sweating great drops of blood. Jesus is the only one I know who has sweated blood while resisting temptation. It is good to recall how much Jesus went through in the garden the next time you wrestle with temptation.

As Jesus struggled with the temptation which preceded the cross, He had to awaken His disciples from sleep and call them to pray with Him. However, His disciples could not manage to stay awake to pray with Jesus, they were overcome by sleep. Jesus calling them to pray with Him was not only for His own benefit, but for theirs as well, for He called them to pray so they would not fall into temptation. (See Matt. 26:41.) Staying faithful in prayer prepares us so we will stand during times of temptation. Jesus strengthens us in prayer!. **"Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted."** (Heb. 2:18 NIV)

Remember, it is not the temptation that is the sin. It only becomes sin when it is acted on in thought or action. Pray you are not tempted, but when temptation does strike, cry out to Jesus, who understands and He will make away of escape for you. Resist the devil with God's word,

by speaking out the precise word that combats the enemy. **“If you think you are standing strong, be careful not to fall. The temptations in your life are not different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure.”** (1 Cor. 10:12-13 NLT)

We then usually end our prayer with, **For Thine is the Kingdom and power and glory forever and ever, Amen.** The Lord’s Prayer is widely used by Christians and is a favorite of many. However, it is much more than a prayer. Just as my sister Karen sat with me cross-legged on the floor to teach me to pray, Jesus, our dear brother, is drawing along side of us by His Spirit, and is teaching us the key topics to discuss with our heavenly Father.

Jesus as Our Model

Not only did Jesus teach us how to pray, but He lived a life of devotion to prayer that serves as an example for us to follow. Jesus never did anything that He didn’t first see the Father do. He stayed in continual communication with His Father through prayer. One time, Jesus went up to a mountain to pray, and spent the whole night praying to God! Most of us, like His disciples, find it difficult to pray even one hour.

“Now it came to pass in those days that He went out to the mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God. And when it was day, He called His disciples to *Himself*; and from them He chose twelve whom He also named apostles: Simon, whom He also named Peter, and Andrew his brother; James and John; Philip and Bartholomew; Matthew and Thomas; James the *son* of Alphaeus, and Simon called the Zealot; Judas *the son* of James, and Judas Iscariot who also became a traitor.

And He came down with them and stood on a level place with a crowd of His disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem, and from the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon, who came to hear Him and be healed of their diseases, as well as those who were tormented with unclean spirits. And they were healed. And the whole multitude sought to touch Him, for power went out from Him and healed *them* all.”
(Luke 6:12-19 NKJV)

It was during this night in prayer that Jesus received wisdom from His Father of who to appoint as His apostles. As Jesus spent time with His Father in prayer, He received guidance, power and wisdom. The twelve apostles were appointed as a result of Jesus' night in intense prayer!

Prayer also strengthened Jesus to minister to the multitudes. Power flowed through Him and many were healed and delivered! This ministry flowed forth after a night of powerful prayer!

Jesus' life was an example and model to follow. Powerful prayer filled His life. After Jesus died and rose from the dead, He ascended back to heaven to sit next to His Father again. He then sent us His Holy Spirit to abide with us.

We are the body of Christ. “For we are members of His body....” (Eph. 5:30 NKJV) Jesus is with us by His Spirit, and we are now His representatives on the earth. Yes, if Jesus is in your heart then you are Christ's representative and ambassador on earth!

Jesus needed to spend time in prayer with His Father, and so do we! Jesus would often take time to get alone with His Father in prayer. He many times went to the mountains to pray. Before going to the cross, He went to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray. He went through excruciating pain as He wrestled in prayer that night, even to the sweating of great drops of blood! Then the angels then came and strengthened Him. (See Luke 22:43.) Jesus was strengthened in prayer, and you will be, too! If

you want to overcome in life, you must live a life of prayer! **Prayer is a powerful key to unlock heaven on earth!**

Jesus only did what the Father was directing Him to do. He spoke what the Father was speaking to Him. Jesus stayed in close contact to His heavenly Father through prayer.

Talking to God

Prayer is simply talking to God. However, prayer is not just about talking to God; it is about listening as well. Through prayer, we build our relationship with God. We get to know Him by conversing with Him, just like we do with anyone else. Through prayer, we pour out our hearts to Him, and He in turn shares His heart with us! This is a beautiful exchange.

When I go to prayer, I like to journal what He is saying to me. Sometimes, I write down my prayer to Him, and then I write down what I feel He is saying back to me and date it. **“...Write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets so that a herald may run with it.” (Hab. 2:2 NIV)**

By writing down what you believe God is saying, you are able to retain it better. When He speaks, faith comes into our hearts. God may speak to you some plans and strategies to help you with a problem you have been praying about. Because He loves you so, He may speak to you about an area of your life that needs some correction. Sometimes, He quickens a verse of Scripture to us by His Spirit. Other times, He just pours out His love upon you. God speaks to us through prayer. He is speaking, we however, must learn to turn our hearts to heaven and listen.

School of the Spirit

We all have spiritual senses just like we have natural senses. For example, we all hear in the natural, but we also can hear by the Spirit of God with our “inner ear.” The apostle Paul heard God speak in an audible voice. (See Acts 9:4-6.) The prophet Elisha heard God speak in a still small voice. (See 1 Kings 19:11-12.) God still speaks both ways today,

although most people hear Him in the “still small voice.” Sometimes, God’s voice comes to us through a “flow of thoughts.” Because these thoughts flow through your mind, you may mistake them for your own. All our thoughts must be discerned however. Some thoughts are yours, some are coming at you from the enemy, but others, are God’s thoughts coming straight from heaven! **“My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.”(John 10:27 NIV)**

Sight is another spiritual sense God gives us. God may choose to speak to you through a dream or vision. For example, Cornelius saw a vision. Joseph had dreams (See Acts 10:30-33; Gen. 37:5-11.). It is the Spirit of God who activates our spiritual senses. You may be activated in hearing, sensing, and seeing, though one sense may be stronger than the others. Also, you may be activated in your spiritual senses at different times during your life. The apostle Paul for example, first heard the audible voice, but later had dreams and visions. God speaks to us all differently, and a person who has dreams and visions, is not more spiritual than one who does not. They are just different ways of hearing from God.

We learn to discern God’s voice through practice. Take time every day to pray and listen for His voice. **“But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, *that is*, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.” (Heb. 5:14 NKJV)** Set time aside each day to listen to His voice and journal what you believe He is saying to you. It is during these precious times with God that we receive golden nuggets of truth to guide us throughout the day. Test everything you hear by comparing it to His written word. God’s written word, the Bible, is our standard we use to test all other words we receive. Also, as you go throughout your day, listen for His voice. He can speak to us anywhere, in the office, at home, while driving—anywhere. We need only to stay “tuned in” to hear Him. God is everywhere. The theological term for this is “omnipresent.” However, He can make His Presence manifest by allowing you to feel or sense Him. This is a wonderful thing that occurs as you acknowledge and invite His Presence! What an honor it is to have the Almighty God speak and draw near to us! Draw near to

Him in your heart and thoughts throughout the day. As you do, He will draw near to you. (See James 4:8.) Live and abide in Him, and He will teach you to hear from Him by His Spirit!

“Live in me. Make your home in me just as I do in you. In the same way that a branch can’t bear grapes by itself but only by being joined to the vine, you can’t bear fruit unless you are joined with me.” (John 15:4 The Message)

Each time God speaks to you heaven’s doors are opened up and His grace is poured out upon you. He will empower you to do what He is calling you to do. Supernatural power comes to you through His grace. Prayer is all about relationship with Him. Prayer is a powerful key to opening heaven on earth.

Intercession

“...The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.” (James 5:16 NLT)

The credit belongs to our youngest son, Justin, for teaching my husband and me to pray! We have two sons. The oldest one, Josh, is an associate pastor at our local church. The youngest one, Justin, is now won over to the Lord and following him also; however, it was not always so. The devil ensnared our youngest with a party lifestyle that led to a severe drug addiction. Though I’ve always prayed for both my sons, I never prayed as hard and long as I did during those last years of Justin’s drug addiction.

A simple definition for intercession is—standing in the gap for another. It’s like there is a gap, much like the one described in chapter one. The loved one we are interceding for is separated from God, or from the grace they need for their healing and breakthrough, by a deep chasm. We as intercessors, take a hold of the hand of God with one of our hands, and with the other, we grab a hold of the hand of our loved ones. By standing in the gap, we connect our loved one with God through our prayer.

My husband and I multiplied our faith by praying together for Justin daily. We stood against the devil that was dragging our son into darkness. We attacked the demons with the word of God and took our authority over them in the name of Jesus. In this way, we were able to break off the devil's hold on him. Demons do exist but we as Christians have authority over them. **“How could one chase a thousand, And two put ten thousand to flight, Unless their Rock had sold them, And the LORD had surrendered them?” (Deut. 32:30 NKJV)**

Combining our prayer with another's doesn't just double our efforts, it multiplies it! With God's power and blessing, we run off a thousand demons, but by praying in agreement with another and taking authority over these demons, we actually can run off 10,000 demons if need be!

We also prayed and confessed God's word for Justin. God would quicken verses to our spirits to pray, and we would make it our own, and declare it! One day, as I was taking communion with the Lord, I was praying Psalm 103 for myself and for Justin: **“Praise the LORD, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. Praise the LORD, my soul, and forget not all his benefits—who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's” (Ps. 103:1-5 NIV).**

When I came to the part “Who redeems your life from the pit...” I was praying for God to deliver my son from the pit. It was then that God spoke to me. He led me to Zechariah 9:11 and 13.

“As for you, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will free your prisoners from the waterless pit. Return to your fortress, you prisoners of hope; even now I announce that I will restore twice as much to you. ...I will rouse your sons, Zion, against your sons, Greece, and make you like a warrior's sword.”(Zech. 9:11-13b NIV Emphasis added)

Now keep in mind, this was spoken to me while taking communion with the Lord. He was saying that because of the blood of His covenant with me that He would free my prisoner (my son) from the pit! He also

promised that He would rouse both my sons for His purposes! Zion here represents the church, and Greece represents the world. What a promise! And he did make me into a warrior's sword in the process!

I have good news for you my friend. God is for you! His word is for you! His promises are for you! Take Him at His word and pray and confess it out loud. The devils will flee! God does not break covenant. As a believer, you have a covenant with God. Stay close to Him and keep covenant with Him by hearing from Him and obeying Him. There's nothing He won't do for you.

I warred with that word in Zechariah for years! We must persevere in prayer. Jesus told a parable of a persistent widow. This widow pleaded repeatedly with the town's unjust judge to give her justice against her adversary. Her request was granted but not because the judge was just, but because of her steadfast persistence! Jesus told this parable to teach us how to pray and not give up. God is just, and He will come through for you. (See Luke 18:1-5.)

“Then the Master said, “Do you hear what that judge, corrupt as he is, is saying? So what makes you think God won't step in and work justice for his chosen people, who continue to cry out for help? Won't he stick up for them? I assure you, he will. He will not drag his feet. But how much of that kind of persistent faith will the Son of Man find on the earth when he returns?” (Luke 18: 6-8 MSG)

Don't ever give up! Be persistent in prayer. Yes, the will of the unsaved is a factor. God will not violate their free will. He will however, soften their hearts and draw them if we will ask Him to.

I had made my mind up that I was going to pray hard every day and believe for Justin's salvation and deliverance even if I had to pray until my death! I remember praying while on a flight home from a mission trip in India. I pleaded with God in my heart, “God please let me live to see Justin's deliverance. I want to see him living for You. But, if I die first, please open a window in heaven and let me peek down upon him when it happens. I so want to see him worshiping and serving You!” God is

so faithful, for only four short months after that day, Justin surrendered to Jesus!

Fasting

“And when you fast, don’t make it obvious, as the hypocrites do, for they try to look miserable and disheveled so people will admire them for their fasting. I tell you the truth, that is the only reward they will ever get. But when you fast, comb your hair and wash your face. Then no one will notice that you are fasting, except your Father, who knows what you do in private. And your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.” (Matt. 6:16-18 NLT)

Jesus said, **“When you fast....”** By this, Jesus was saying that as believers, fasting should be a part of our life. Fasting is going without food for a period of time. It is an effective key of the Kingdom when coupled with prayer. Our flesh (our carnal nature) and our spirit man are actually at war with each other. We are a spirit, we live in a body, and we possess a soul (our mind, will, and emotions). For example, when my alarm goes off on a Sunday morning, my flesh says, “Roll over and go back to sleep.” However, my spirit wants to get up and go to church to worship God. When I choose to push the “snooze button” over and over again, I am giving in to the flesh. The Bible says, “...The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak” (Matt. 26:41 NKJV). Fasting and prayer are effective keys in the strengthening of your spirit. Fasting can remind you to pray as you focus on God. When we fast, we are denying the flesh and letting our spirit rule.

Jesus fasted for forty days and nights. Fasting doesn’t have to be that long however. You can fast for part of a day, a whole day, or for several days in a row. You also can fast as a discipline and do it regularly. For example, you may want to fast on the same day every week. Let the Lord lead you in how and when to fast. Also, before beginning a fast, seek your medical Doctor’s advice. During your time of fasting, let your hunger pains remind you to pray instead of eating.

Fasting can also be total or partial. Jesus ate nothing for forty days. He didn't even drink water. However, it is easy to dehydrate without water, so I always drink lots of water! Daniel's fast included only fruits and vegetables. He also ate no "pleasant bread" in other words, he didn't stop eating entirely, he just abstained from rich foods. (See Dan. 1:12; 10:3.) Likewise, you may want to abstain from certain foods during your fast. Prayer needs to accompany fasting for fasting without food is no more than a diet.

Why Fast?

Fasting is not about trying to force God's hand. When you fast you are humbling yourself before the Lord and seeking His face. Fasting allows you focus on specific areas of life that need breakthrough. Some areas of focus for fasting and prayer include: breakthrough, direction, deliverance, victory over the flesh, spiritual revival, healings, and miracles.

As we seek God in prayer and fasting, He will move on our behalf. However, God is sovereign, He moves as He determines. God desires to move but He designed it to happen as we cry out to Him in sincere prayer and fasting. (See Isa. 58:5-6; Mark 9:29; Joel 2:12-32.) God is faithful. As we humble ourselves before Him and seek His face in a focused way through the vehicle of prayer and fasting He will surely move in our lives.

"If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land." (2 Chron. 7:14 NKJV) We need to humbly pray for God to heal our land. God answers prayer. I'd like to close this chapter with a prayer for our land.

Prayer to Heal Our Land

Lord, we pray for our land. Please forgive us for all the selfishness and sin in our country. We pray for you to soften the hearts of all our people and to give them a seeking heart. For Your word says that if we

seek You, we will find You. Send perfect laborers to the lost and give them ears to hear so they can learn of You. May godly leaders arise and the ungodly be removed. Forgive us for the slaughter of the unborn. Forgive us for our evil ways and set our feet on Your paths. Have mercy on us we pray, in Jesus' name, Amen.

a Book's Mart

Buy the full book now at: abooksmart.com
Available in paperback and ebook formats!

a
Book's
Mind

www.abooksmind.com • The SMART way to publish