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# **Let's Make a Prayer List**

**#1338-B**

**Series: Prayer: God's "Secret" Weapon**

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*Our Father and our God,*

*We worship You. Thou art a sovereign God who knows the beginning from the end and who works all things together for our good and for Your kingdom's glory.*

*We bring Charlie and Lyndale to you this morning and we bring this problem to You, for You to handle whatever way You see fit. Our prayer is that our responses might be godly and that Your glory might be the primary thing.*

*Grant us we pray, our Father, comfort for those who are struggling, who have suffered the loss of loved ones. We pray, Father, that Your Holy Spirit would be the comforter that He is in their lives.*

*Now we pray, Father, that this lesson might somehow be used of Thee, to bring glory to Your name.*

*In Christ we pray,*

*Amen.*

Well, we've been on a journey, a journey that's soon to be finished; we have about three more steps in the journey. The journey has taken us through the back roads of Scripture to the quiet places, the secret places and the gardens of life, if you will, where God and man can meet and have their hearts become one. We've come to call it prayer.

One such place we found, you remember, was in the Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus knelt and in agony pleaded with the Father for His will to be done. Another such place we found nestled, perhaps, on a Judean hillside; we don't know for sure. But there we witnessed a miracle of divine communication when God the Father and God the Son spoke heart to heart. And we heard God the Son ask God the Father to take His glory and give it to us.

Then we slipped up the side of a mountain, you remember, and listened as Jesus taught a seminar on prayer. He began by telling us how not to pray, and that was a little arresting at the time. And then He began to teach us how to pray and even gave us a pattern to follow. Satan has moved in many cases, and our pattern has become a legalistic bunch of words that we pay no attention to but just repeat. In other cases, unfortunately, we've allowed the

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familiarity of it to distract from the incredible depth of it so that we've missed the blessing.

I pray that in all of this, we've been quiet long enough to have God show us something about His heart and about prayer. We've even learned how to pray for all men, especially those in authority over us, and we have even learned to pray for our enemies: those who hate us, persecute us, and despitely use us.

God even took us by the hand, a few weeks ago, and led us ever so gently into a Roman prison; and we quietly strolled into a jail cell and listened where an innocent man who stood to lose his life unjustly, prayed. Oh, did he pray. And we saw all of those principles that Jesus shared about prayer, and that Jesus showed about prayer, manifest in the life of this one man who knew who God is and who knew what prayer was all about and who knew that you could trust your God, especially in the dungeons of life.

So here we are coming to the latter stages of our study, just three to go. And it's the stage of every study where I asked you to stop and ask, "Okay, okay, enough information, what now?" What are we going to do about it? Some of us have pondered and wondered and listened and learned. Some of us have even come to the conclusion that prayer is much more important in the eyes of God than we ever realized before. Some of us maybe have come to realize that prayer is more tied to the nature of God than we have come to realize before.

But the question is, "What are you going to do now?" I know one thing you can do is you can go into the filing cabinet you have at home under "P" for prayer, and file all these notes or any information you've received. Then if somebody comes up to you two years from now and asks if you have anything on prayer, you can say, "Have I got something for you." Another thing you can do is to go around and tell your friends, "You know, I have really learned something about prayer, and I'm quite a prayer warrior now, in addition to my humility." Or we can do something with it.

The last three studies are ones you want to be sure to miss. (You can't leave now, the doors are locked, but you could skip the next two.) We're going to take the hand of Jesus and ask Him to take what we've learned and make us accountable so that we need never, ever be the same again where prayer is concerned.

The issues upon us at this stage in any study are these two:

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1- How can I turn knowledge into understanding? How can I take the information I've heard about from the Word and apply it to me personally? I mean, maybe I've learned a lot about what God thinks of prayer. How can I take that and say, "Wait a minute, this is what God expects me to do in the area of prayer and I'm not doing it." That's called understanding.

2- How can I turn understanding into wisdom? Wisdom, remember, is truth personalized and obeyed. In other words, how can I not only realize that God has a plan for the Christian where prayer is concerned, but that I'm not measuring up to that plan. How can I do something, put something in place so the Spirit in me can see that the pattern changes as I begin to be the praying Christian I'm supposed to be?

I don't think there's any area of Scripture where these two principles are more important. Studying about prayer is like putting fuel in the tank and never starting the engine. You can be very proud of the fact that the gauge says full. But praying and learning about prayer and then gaining understanding is like saying, "Wow, I wish I was a praying Christian like I ought to be."

It's like putting gas in the tank and then starting the engine and just sitting there. You use up a lot of gas but you don't get anywhere. The truth of the matter with this study, or any study, is that as you come to the end of it, unless you back out of the driveway and put your foot on the accelerator and go, you will have really missed the point.

So these last three lessons are going to be an attempt to put into practice these principles. Now I will admit to you that the first hundred and fifty, or however many of these lessons we have had, seem to have been more theological, philosophical and spiritual in nature, and, perhaps, they needed to be. I don't know.

But now we're coming down to the finish line and we need to take the philosophy, theology and the spiritual truth and make it happen. So if you're here visiting today and this lesson seems incredibly too practical for you, please forgive us. It's not the ordinary procedure. But this morning we're going to try to make it happen. For some of you what we'll share is old hat and you've already got all of this handled. We would appreciate your prayers for us because some of us need to keep working on it, myself in particular.

One thing that we've learned is that God is definitely interested

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in how we pray, how often we pray and why we pray. Probably one of the most dominant themes in Scripture is the subject of prayer. Jesus Himself taught us how, showed us how, and then turned us over to Paul who took what Jesus taught us and showed us, and made it work in the real world. We've learned, remember, that what God really wants of us, is for us to be able to pray until all of the fullness of God is ours.

Now Satan has at least two extremes that he tries to take Christians to when you try to apply a Biblical principle. Extreme number one is that Satan wants us to so spiritualize truth that if we think we feel moved, we've been changed. We leave here and say, "Oh, boy, God really spoke to me about prayer. Wow! I'm so neat now." And then we do nothing about it.

At the other end of the spectrum we say, "I don't feel anything, but I'll tell you one thing I'm going to do this and this and this and this in my own energy." And then we miss it. The truth is our heart needs to be moved by the Spirit and then in response to that, we need to make some choices and do some things, by an act of the will. We need to have some goals, make some plans and become accountable or we'll get back together three years from now and say, "Let's talk about prayer". And you'll say, "Yes, prayer that's a good subject; I've heard about it before somewhere".

And so this morning we're going to try to begin the process of a three-week journey putting some stakes into the ground. We're going to need to find a time, a place, a plan, and a commitment to pray. We're going to pray for others who are not on our prayer lists, and we're going to pray at times that haven't been scheduled. That's the way it's supposed to be. But if we don't set minimums, our good intentions will be for nothing more than good intentions.

One thing I've learned is that I think Paul knew whom he was praying for and why. I somehow don't think when he was chained to that Roman guard and he bowed his head said, "Okay, Lord, pop some names into my mind. I've some time on my hands." I don't know how he did it, and I think it's good that we don't know because we would legalize it and turn it into some kind of activity that was cloned. But again and again Paul prayed for large groups of people, whole churches, apparently by name. I don't know how he did it but if I'm going to do it, I have to have a list.

Satan is a seed snatcher and when I go to pray he turns this already limited matter in my mind to mush, more mush, mushier,

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or whatever...and I go blank. Only when I have a prayer list do I remember faithfully to call the names of the people He wants me to bring before Him.

Secondly, not only do I forget their names, I forget what I was praying for him, why I'm praying for him, how I'm praying for him. Now maybe you don't have that problem, but some of you might, so we're going to make a prayer list this morning. And then in the next two weeks, we're going to try to use it...for the rest of our lives.

So, let's make a prayer list! Now I know many of you already have this down. You have a prayer list and you've been consistently using it maybe for years. That's wonderful. You pray for us. Maybe there will be something you can share with us at a later time that will help us. And maybe at the same time, there will even be an idea that you can add or maybe use in discipling or working with your children to give them something to go by.

Now we're going to start out with another one of my notebook schemes. Some of you think I'm in the notebook business on the side, but I'm not. I'm going to ask you to start out with a notebook that's portable, yet durable, so you can keep it available, but keep it. We're going to talk about an 8½ x 5½ inch notebook, which is the same size as the printed lessons we already hand out. And, we're going to divide it into 4 sections.

(I'm going to ask some of you to volunteer and maybe those in our focus group won't get a chance to volunteer; they'll get commandeered. But we're going to try to make some of these notebooks for those of you that would like to have one but don't think you'll ever get around to doing it.)

This notebook will have four sections in it, at least. And in those sections some of them will be divided into smaller sections and it's just to help us have a track to run on.

Section 1- The character section. The character section is the most important part, perhaps, because in it we're going to make a list of the character qualities or the attributes that make God God. And I'm going to ask you to give the rest your life to meditate on those character qualities, those attributes of God.

The second part in that first section is a list of the attributes that God wants man to reveal through Scripture, that is the result of who He is. In other words you are going to pray for (I'll show you in a minute) certain qualities in people's lives. And we're going to

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make a list of those qualities. I'm going to give you that list. Some of you have picked it up or have it already.

Section 2- The worship section. It has two parts, also. The first is just pages where each day we choose to worship God for one aspect of His nature or any other way you choose to and a list of psalms and the verses and the quotations that relate to that aspect of His nature. So that Monday you may be praying about the holiness of God, and you may be worshipping Him for his holiness and you may have poems, or psalms or quotations or words of encouragement from Scripture, or verses to memorize on His Holiness. And on Tuesday you might be meditating on His sovereignty.

But the second half of the second section, the worship section, we're going to ask you to make a remembrance section. By remembrance we mean we're going to ask you to put down the things God has done in your life and in the lives of others that you want to remember and to thank Him for in years to come. Satan, again, likes to steal those things away from you.

Section 3- The daily section. And then the third section is going to be our daily section and that's just a list of the people we pray for every day—your wife, your husband, your parents, your children, your friends, or whomever. It may be your pastor or people that God has laid on your heart to pray for every day. I'm going to give you a sample prayer list that will give you an idea of how to pray for them. You don't have to use it, but you will have it as something to start with.

Section 4- The rotating section. What you rotate are the pages and hopefully there are seven sets of pages, Monday through Sunday. And on each of them we'll have a group of people to pray for on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, etc., in addition to the ones we pray for daily.

### SECTION 1- THE CHARACTER SECTION

Let's start our book and we will begin with the character section, part one, The Attributes of God. Now I've given you in your notes a sample of 10 or 12 of them. I'll go over them very quickly. You might choose on Monday, or whatever day you may choose, to worship God because He is Omnipotent.

The chart I've given you has three columns. In the first column is the attribute of God that you want to begin to focus on. Column two is what that means in common everyday language, in column



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three are some Scriptures you can claim, meditate on and worship God through. (The chart is on pages 9 through the top of page 11.) Our lessons resumes after the chart on page 11.

**THE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD**

<b>God is...</b>	<b>Therefore...</b>	<b>His Word says...</b>
<b>Faithful</b>	What He has promised, He will do. Always	Genesis 8:22 Deuteronomy 7:9 Lamentations 3:22 II Timothy 2:13 Hebrews 10:23
<b>Grace</b>	He lives in us, becoming in us His very nature	Exodus 33:19 John 1:17 Romans 3:24 Romans 11:6 Ephesians 2:8,9
<b>Holy</b>	He is too pure to look upon sin. It breaks His heart.	Exodus 15:11 Psalm 7:11 Psalm 99:5 Psalm 110:3 Isaiah 6:3 Habakkuk 1:13
<b>Immutable</b>	He cannot change. His Word cannot change.	Psalm 33:11 Psalm 119:89 Isaiah 54:10 Malachi 3:6 Hebrews 6:17 James 1:17
<b>Love</b>	He gladly gave Himself for us. He gladly gives Himself to us.	Deuteronomy 7:7,8 Jeremiah 31:3 John 3:16 Ephesians 3:15-21 1 John 4:8 1 John 4:19

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<b>God is...</b>	<b>Therefore...</b>	<b>His Word says...</b>
<b>Mercy</b>	His forgiveness and love cause Him to withhold His wrath and maintain our fellowship	Exodus 33:19 Psalm 57:10 Psalm 59:16 Psalm 86:5 Psalm 136:1 Psalm 145:9 Titus 3:5 I Peter 1:3
<b>Omnipotent</b>	There is nothing He cannot do.	Psalm 18:13-15 Psalm 27:1 Psalm 33:9 Psalm 62:11 Psalm 89 Ephesians 3:20,21 Hebrews 1:3
<b>Omnipresent</b>	He will never leave us nor forsake us. We can never run from Him.	Joshua 1:5 Psalm 139 Matthew 28:20 Hebrews 13:5
<b>Omniscient</b>	There is nothing He does not know. He knows my heart. He knows the future.	Job 23:10 Psalm 103:14 Psalm 139:2-4 Jeremiah 1:5 Hosea 7:2 John 21:17 Romans 8:29,30 Hebrews 4:13
<b>Patient</b>	He is slow to anger, full of compassion, ready to forgive.	Numbers 14:18 Psalm 145:8 Nahum 1:3 I Peter 3:20 II Peter 3:9

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<b>God is...</b>	<b>Therefore...</b>	<b>His Word says...</b>
<b>Sovereign</b>	He is always in control, and what He does is always best.	Psalm 75:6,7 Psalm 135:6 Psalm 115:3 Isaiah 46:10 Daniel 4:35 Ephesians 1:11

One of the attributes is His omnipotence. What does that mean? It means there's nothing God cannot do. Very simply put it down. And then I'm giving you some verses to memorize, such as Psalm 27:1.

"The Lord is my light and my salvation whom shall I fear. The Lord is the strength of my life of whom shall I be afraid."

If God is omnipotent, who can bother me? So there are some verses, a whole list of them there.

Then another one is God is omniscient. In everyday language that simply means there's nothing He does not know. He knows my heart. He knows the future. We could meditate then on Psalm 139:2-4,

"You know when I sit down, Lord, and when I stand up. You understand my thoughts from far off. You're acquainted with all my ways."

And then you may worship Him on Wednesday because He is Omnipresent. He will never leave you or forsake you, and you cannot run from Him. That's what it means. He has said,

"I will never leave you or forsake you." (Hebrews 13:5).

"Lo, I am with you always even to the end of the age."  
(Matthew 28:1).

You get the idea. And on and on it goes. He is immutable, He cannot change, His word cannot change. He is sovereign (Psalm 135:6). Whatever the Lord pleases, He does in heaven and on earth. He is faithful.

He who has promised is faithful (Hebrews 10:23). That means what He promised He will always do. He is patient and so forth. Those are attributes of God, and each attribute carries with it reams and reams and reams of scriptural verses that amplify who

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God is, based on that aspect of His nature. And as you worship God for that aspect of His nature, He becomes real and your prayer life becomes vibrant.

So section one is not what we want. Section one is who God is, and who and how who God is affects who we pray for. So that's a start. You take it from there.

I would suggest you spend at least the rest of your life meditating on the character of God. Did you know that every absolute in Scripture is tied to one of God's attributes...every one. So that's why when God says, "Thou shalt not lie," you don't say, "Well, okay, God, if You say so". It isn't like that. Why did God say, "Thou shalt not lie"? It is because God is truth. And if God is truth it means that He lives in you. He who is truth cannot lie. So any lie or deceitful thought that comes out of your heart does not come from God. Therefore, it's not an issue anymore; it's an absolute. It says, "Thou shalt not commit adultery". Why did God do that? Because God is perfect holiness. Therefore, when anyone violates the portrait of His holiness, they violate His Name. God said, for instance, "My Word shall abide forever". That's a wonderful promise; it's an absolute. How do we know it will happen? Because His word is immutable, that's why. He has said, "As far as the east is from the west, that's how far I've separated your sins from you. I can remember them no more". How do you know that is an absolute? Because of His mercy.

So each of the absolutes in Scripture is tied to one attribute of God and every character quality that we pray into the lives of other people, as we'll see in a moment. Actually it is a derivative of the nature of God or some aspect of it. Every miracle in Scripture, as you think about it, is an expression of one attribute of God's character. Get the little book by Arthur Pink called "The Attributes of God". You can buy it at any Christian bookstore. It's where most these references came from it. You may want to start your own attribute book and take a section for each of them. You may start with one page but you will end up with a section and maybe someday you'll end up with a notebook on every one of the attributes of God. Because every time you have a quiet time, every time you have a Sunday school lesson, and every time you go to a sermon, you will hear something mentioned that will trigger some aspect of the nature of God, once you get your mind to thinking that way.

And what will happen is that you will begin to put those passages together. And as you do you'll begin to worship Him for

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His holiness. You'll have all of this information to praise Him for and to praise Him through.

I'd suggest that some of you create threads of verses to memorize and meditate on, based on one attribute of the nature of God. Take His holiness and the verses that apply to it and weave them together in a series of verses to memorize and meditate on. If you were to say to me, "I only have four weeks to live, what do you think I ought to do in terms of my relationship with God?" I would say, spend the next four weeks meditating on who God is. That way when God calls you home in four weeks, you will be that much more prepared to do what you're going to spend eternity doing. And, if you're not a believer, you are much more likely during that time to come to understand that God is real.

You say, "Well, I have more than four weeks to live." Oh, really? What if Jesus comes tomorrow? What if Jesus calls you home? And if not, why not take whatever time you have to breathe in nothing but the nature of God for the rest of your life. Do you want a good place to start? Start with Psalm 89. In that one chapter you find God extolled for His faithfulness, His mercy, His power, His supremacy, His truth, His sovereignty, His immutability, His holiness, and His love...all in one chapter. And then the psalmist said, "Blessed be the Lord forevermore. Amen and Amen." And I say, "Amen". It's an incredible way to spend your day. Suddenly all those problems that are nagging at you and all of those frustrations that are drawing you down and all of the discouragements begin to look different because you're seeing life through the lens of who God is. You're not seeing God through the lens of what life is like. There's a tremendous difference. Read the Psalms, read Paul's letters, read the biographies of great Christian men and you will find that most of them spend, particularly the latter years of their life, meditating on the nature of God. That really is what prayer is all about.

Now, in the second half of the first section, we're going to take this character thing one step further. We're going to tie the attributes of God in with the character qualities and we're going to use to pray for other people. So that's the next chart in your notes beginning on the next page.

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**QUALITIES OF GODLINESS**

<b>Godly Quality</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>References</b>	<b>His Nature</b>
Contentment	Satisfaction with your lot in life.	Philippians 4:11-13 I Timothy 6:6	Sovereignty
Discernment	God-given ability to see from His perspective	James 3:17 Proverbs 19:27	Omniscience
Faithfulness	Consistency in your expression of faith	I Timothy 1:12 Proverbs 20:6 II Timothy 2:2	Faithfulness
Humility	Accepting last place as deserved	James 4:10 I Peter 5:5,6 Proverbs 15:33 Proverbs 25:6,7	Supremacy
Love	God in us giving Himself away	Galatians 5:23 I Corinthians 13 I John 4:12	Love
Meekness	The gracious responses humility produces	I Peter 3:4 Galatians 5:23 Ephesians 4:2 James 1:21 Colossians 3:12	Grace
Modesty	That quality of discretion that never calls attention to itself	Proverbs 11:22 I Peter 3:2-5 I Timothy 2:9	Holiness
Patience	Taking God's time-frame as your own	James 1:2,3 Hebrews 10:35,36 Proverbs 20:22	Patience
Peace	Inner tranquility based on who God is	John 14:27 John 16:33 Philippians 4:6,7 Isaiah 26:3 John 14:1-3	Sovereignty

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<b>Godly Quality</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>References</b>	<b>His Nature</b>
Purity	Inner holiness of heart	II Timothy 2:21,22 James 4:7,8 Proverbs 4:23	Holiness
Self-Control	Balanced restraint based on God's control of your life	Galatians 5:22,23 Titus 1:8 II Peter 1:6 Proverbs 14:29	Sovereignty
Steadfastness	Remaining in place as needed	I Corinthians 15:58	Faithfulness

These are some of the things you can pray for yourself and for other people based on what Paul and Jesus and others told us we have a right to expect God to do when the Spirit indwells us. Once the Spirit indwells you, He expects you to become content. You say, "Well, I'm not." Okay, let's pray because that's a prayer we know God will answer. You still have a free will but God will bring circumstances into your life and put pressure on your life to make you become content.

What is contentment? I've given you a definition, and I've given you a little booklet that has a whole list of character qualities you can use. Some of them you'll like, some of them you won't, but you can start with those—contentment and satisfaction with your lot in life. I Timothy 6:6,

Godliness with contentment is great gain because we brought nothing into this world [How much? Zilch.], and we can take [how much out? Double zilch], nothing out of it. Having food and raiment let us therewith be content.

Faithfulness and consistency in your expression of faith. II Timothy 2:2,

The things that thou have seen and heard among many witnesses the same commit to faithful men. They will be able to teach others also.

I'd love to spend some time on that sometime. It's the Word of God that those you pray for need to have poured into their lives. Humility and meekness—one is an attitude and one is a response.

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Humility is accepting last place as deserved (James 4:10, Proverbs 15:33, and I Peter 5:5). But meekness is the active response, the gracious response humility produces and is a reflection of the grace of God. Scripture says,

“Receive with meekness the engrafted word...”

Modesty and purity, one is an active quality and one's an inner quality. Purity is the inner holiness of heart that comes from the holiness of God. Modesty is the active quality, that quality of discretion, that never calls attention to itself and reflects that.

So these are things that you can pray for those on your prayer list, and we'll show you how in just a minute. But it's only a beginning. You'll have to come up with your own list, or add to it or subtract from it. But as you pray for yourself, and as you pray for others using Paul as an example, instead of praying for circumstances, why not pray that God's nature would be manifest in that person's life? For instance, don't just pray that Johnny will get that promotion or that job or that raise, pray that Johnny will become content. As you do you begin to praise God for His sovereignty. You see it leads you back to the throne. You praise God for His sovereignty, which is the basis for Johnny's need for contentment. And that means that, according to I Timothy 6:6, Johnny's greatest need is to learn to trust God. When you pray that way (you don't know if it's God's will or not for him to get a raise), you're praying according to the will of God. Scripture says that,

“If you ask anything according to His will [He what?], He hears you and He gives you the request you asked for”.

Now once Johnny has God's perspective of God's sovereignty, and he becomes content, the raise becomes incidental. If it's a need, God will provide it. That's God's responsibility. Our responsibility is to pray for Johnny's character.

Maybe Mary's ask you to pray because her sister is in a situation that has put a great strain on her. That's a godly request. So what do you pray, for Mary situation to go away? No, not necessarily. Why don't you pray that God's peace would so establish Mary that she would stop worrying and begin to praise God? This situation may have come into Mary's life so that God could test her faith and her ability to rest in Him. So ask God to give her wisdom and faith and peace.

You see prayer, Beloved, is serious business. We want God's



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best for these people but we don't always know, circumstantially, what that is. But we do know nothing in their lives is there by accident, and God wants to use what's there to mold them into His likeness. So this is how to pray aright.

God also knows that, as we focus on character qualities that we want Him to put into people's lives, what happens is that we jump right back to looking at Him in the aspect of His nature that makes that quality possible. How are we going to pray for him? I've given you a sample prayer list. If you don't know who to pray for, you can start by praying for Billy Smith. I don't know him either, but there's got to be one somewhere. (These are fictitious names.) But you might want to pray for Billy that he has a spirit of contentment (Philippians 4:11), or the spirit of discernment (Proverbs 19:27).

Maybe you're praying for Pastor Johnson that his spiritual hunger increases (Matthew 4:4), or for Lisa Williams that she gains a quiet spirit (I Peter 3:2-5). But you see how it works.

<b>Pray for...</b>	<b>Request...</b>	<b>Scripture</b>
Billy Smith	contentment discernment	Philippians 4:11 Proverbs 19:27
John Jones	faithfulness	Proverbs 20:6
Frank O Leary	patience	Hebrews 10:36
Linda Simpson	grateful spirit	Philippians 4:6
Pastor Johnson	spiritual hunger	Matthew 4:4
Benny Richards	right friendships	Proverbs 13:20
Lisa Williams	quiet spirit	I Peter 3:2-5
Andrea O'Neill	steadfastness	I Corinthians 15:58
Rob Sampson	correctability	Proverbs 13:1,18

You may be praying for these qualities because you've seen a need in their lives. You may be praying for them because the circumstances in their lives demand it, or just because God laid it on your heart. But the truth of the matter is this is the way to pray for people, Beloved. And, whatever reason you use, you're praying according to the will of God, and God is likely to answer. They'll have a choice whether or not to respond, but God will answer in

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terms of bringing into their lives the things necessary for them to gain that quality; and, Beloved, that quality is eternal. If they become content, that's an eternal quality. It will change their life, it will give glory to God, and it will draw other people to Christ. If they get a raise it may or may not help their circumstances but that's not the issue.

Now we have the beginning of a prayer book. We've just gotten a few samples but the real prayer list is up to you. I'd suggest that in the daily portion that you put in the names of people you want to pray for every day. These would include your loved ones and those that have specific, dire needs. These are the ones who are in the hospital or who have serious injuries or someone who is dying. Or maybe it's just someone that's in your family that's been on your heart for years. But those are the ones you want to pray for every day.

Then in your rotating section I made seven different sheets. I'll tell you at the end of the lesson some suggestions of what you can do with each day and you can do that any way you like. But if you're looking for a suggestion you could start there and then change it. But that's what you do. The rotating section then is something that you will have a different group to pray for. Every day you'll worship, you'll pray for your daily list, and then you will turn to the day in the rotating section that's that day of the week and then you'll pray for them.

What does it mean? It doesn't mean you have to pray for all those people everyday. The key is you have a track to run on so Satan can't erase from the computer of your mind the names God is trying to impress on you to pray for. You have the freedom to choose not to pray for them, but you don't give Satan the freedom to do it for you.

And then, of course, I'd encourage you to have a Book of Remembrance section. I think it's why the children of Israel were reminded over and over of God's great miracles. It's because when they remembered the miracles, they were tied back to some attribute of God that they worshipped Him for. If you read the Psalms you'll see how it works. The Psalmist would begin to say, "Oh, God, when You did this...and then they would begin to extol God or to worship God or to adore God for that part of His nature that caused Him to do that miracle—His power, His holiness.

Well, those are just some ideas. I hope it's not too boring for you

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but I wanted to give you a track to run on. These are just ideas. You pray because God said to, you pray because it pleases God's heart, you pray because it benefits the kingdom and because it's the will of God. That's why you pray. And so we need a pattern for some of us. We don't wait till we feel like praying, often we won't. We need something and even though it seems mechanical, please don't throw away the idea. It may be that some of it can be helpful to you.

Let's review where we are and we'll close with this. One way to do this is for you to get yourself a notebook. I'd suggest that one about this size but you can get one that's the size of a room if you want or the size of a postage stamp. This is a good one to start with. It's the same size as the material that we give out and it's a common size and is a 8 ½ x by 11 inch piece of paper folded in half so that you can print your own.

I suggest that you title it something. I titled it "My Time To Talk With God", but you might just call it "Special" or whatever you want to call it. And if you already have a prayer notebook skip this step; it's just for those of you that don't.

And then divide it into four sections. The first section, remember, is the character section and is divided into two parts: "The Attributes" (pgs. 9-11), and then the list of character qualities I called "Qualities of Godliness" (pgs. 14-15), that we're going to ask God to allow us to pray into other people's lives. That's just a start so you can't say, "Gosh, if I just had a list I could get started."<sup>1</sup>

And then there is the worship section that includes your remembrance section in which you write down your testimony and the things God has done in your life and the things you want to be reminded of so that every time He answers prayer, Satan can't whisper at you like he did the lepers and say, "Ah, don't worry about it, forget it". And every time you go to pray and say I wonder if God can do this, and Satan says, "I bet He can't", you can say, "Wait a minute, He's already done that for me. He did that for my friends; He did that for the children of Israel. My God can".

And then the final two sections would be the daily section and the rotating section. And let me close by giving you just an idea for those of you that would rather somebody give you a creative thought and you can then start for yourself.

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<sup>1</sup> A sample prayer notebook is included in the back of "Prayer: God's Secret Weapon, Volume 2" by Russell Kelfer © 2001.

## Let's Make a Prayer List

Why don't you take Monday in your rotating section and pray for your relatives. Maybe you can't remember their names. Ask your wife or husband, what's Aunt Susie or aunt so and so's name, the one I don't like? You put the relatives on Monday. You pray through your daily list, you worship, and then you come to your relatives. Tuesday may be missionary day. You list all of the missionaries your church supports. Now there may be some you are vitally involved with that you pray for every day. You can't pray for all of them every day but you list the others. In our church they are listed in the church directory. But you can begin to pray for them.

Wednesday you can pray for your spiritual leaders, your pastors, your elders, your teachers, and those who minister to you. Thursday you pray for those where you work or where you children go to school. Friday you pray for the people you met that week that God has just laid on your heart. Saturday would be a good day to pray for your neighbors or your unsaved friends. Sunday pray for those in authority over you, the president, the vice-president, the governor, the mayor, the city councilmen, and so forth, that we discussed. And as your prayer time increases, you'll want to add more and more people to your list. And you may pray more than one time a day, but let's at least begin by making a prayer list if you don't have one. Would you do that?

Start this week. I'm going to try to get some people to help us make some of these notebooks so that if you just put off beginning we can at least give you something to start with. Maybe you're one of those that already has a plan, that's fantastic, praise God. But maybe there is one aspect of this you can incorporate into yours, or maybe if not, you can use it as a beginning for your children or your disciples that you're working with to help get them started.

Remember, systems and methods are nothing more than ways to implement obedience. Having a prayer list doesn't make you a pray-er and it doesn't make you pray aright. In fact, that's what we'll talk about next week. All it can do is give you a track to run on, but we need that, don't we? So let's make a prayer list, what do you say? Let's focus on the prayer list and let's focus our prayer life and on the nature of God. And then let's learn to use that prayer list to pray into the lives of others those very same qualities God wants to manifest in us and in them. When we do that, we will be in the process, Beloved, of becoming wise. And we'll close with this.

Let's Make a Prayer List

LET'S MAKE A PRAYER LIST

So let's make a prayer list  
Let's begin today  
Let's write down a simple plan  
To lead us as we pray.

Let's list all God's attributes,  
The things that make Him God.  
Let's define those attributes  
And key them to His Word.

Let's learn how to make a list—  
Of things God wants to see,  
The kind of character He wants  
When He is God in me.

Let's write down the names and needs  
Of all our Christian brothers.  
Let's learn how to lift them up  
So God is real in others.

Let's write down the miracles,  
The things that God has done,  
To demonstrate His power and love  
To those who trust His Son.

Oh, dear God, you've told us  
To learn to watch and pray.  
Help us make a prayer list  
And let's begin...today!

Let's pray,

*Our Father and our God,*

*We pray that if this lesson has been too practical or too dry that You'd forgive us. But we pray that somehow You would take the concept and drive it into the hearts of those here that you feel would benefit by having such a discipline.*

*And for all of us, Father, whether we make a new prayer list or not, or even use one, make us more aware this morning, Father, that we're really not playing games anymore. Prayer is something that's not an option if we're to walk with You the way we're suppose to.*

Let's Make a Prayer List

*And so, Father, we pray that as these next few weeks unfold that you would help us to make some commitments that will last for all of eternity. May they affect the way we pray and may they affect the way we see the precious God You are.*

*In Jesus wonderful name we ask it.*

*Amen.*

## NOTES

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