



The CLARITY Series

Herb Paynter

Effective Faith-Based Prayer

Calling God's Will Down to Earth

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Table of Contents

Table of Contents	3
Communications.....	4
The Chain of Command.....	6
Prayer Involves Active Faith.....	8
The Power of Confidence	10
Personal Purpose.....	12
Guard Your Thought Life	14
The Spiritual War	16
Spiritual Alignment.....	18
The Real Substance of the Prayer of Faith	20

Communications

Prayer is a transactional instrument of participation between God and man and is rooted in both man's *dependence upon* and *obedience to* God's will. That sounds a bit starchy, so let me reword the statement: Prayer is how faithful believers cooperate with God's desire to pass His heavenly will down to Earth.

Prayer is an attitude of communion with God based on *faith*. It is God's spiritual extension cord; a high-voltage two-way channel through which God hears our hearts and then sends us personal ministry assignments.

Jeremiah 17:10

I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, even to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings.

This communication process was established in the Garden of Eden, when Adam talked with God and obeyed His daily direction. As believers in Jesus Christ, it is the channel through which we stay tuned to God's will.

God created an earthly kingdom in the Garden intending for it to reflect His heavenly kingdom; the physical was to reflect the spiritual. He created man for the express purpose of governing over this earthly kingdom *under His authority*. God designed man with a leadership quality and a healthy measure of creativity, expecting man to govern the Earth while remaining under His authority.

Unfortunately, Satan's deceptive temptation to govern independent of God's law proved too alluring for man to resist, and man sinned against God, losing both his personal relationship with God and his position as Governor.

Immediately after the *fall* of man, God introduced a purpose and a plan by which man could regain that original honor and responsibility. The plan is called redemption. God's redemption plan actually involves *two* objectives: 1) paying for man's sin of disobedience and receiving the forgiveness provided by Christ, and 2) proving man's willingness to remain obedient to God's will through the power of the Holy Spirit. The first objective re-establishes man's relationship to God and forgives the sin, the second qualifies him to regain an eventual leadership position in God's earthly kingdom.

The first objective guarantees him a home in heaven. The second offers him a reinstated position in Christ's earthly kingdom. Faith brings salvation and obedience rewards man with an inheritance in Christ's earthly kingdom.

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