

Prayer Secrets

by
Guy H. King

*Reprinted by
Christ Life Publications*

All Scripture quotations are from the *King James Version* (KJV) of the Bible.

PRAYER SECRETS

ISBN: 0-942889-11-8

Printed in the United States of America

Copyright © 1997 by Christ Life Publications

Christ Life Publications

P.O. Box 399

Vinton, Virginia 24179

No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publisher.

Preface

Never has there been a day when prayer was a more significant topic for the Church, for the believer. Greater pressures, greater temptations, and greater opportunities have never faced any generation before us.

While there seems to be much prayer made in our day, there seems to be little to show for it many times. Perhaps we have lost or left some of the determining elements that make for prayer that moves Heaven.

In this classic book, Guy H. King addresses in simple, yet profound style, a number of facets of effectual, fervent prayer. This work seems to be a source document. Preachers across America have quoted from it in their preaching and writing (perhaps unknowingly) for years. Its reprinting will prove a great impetus to the kind of prayer so lacking in our times.

The work has been edited to remove British spellings and the use of Roman numerals. Sentence structure has been simplified somewhat to improve readability. However, care has been taken to preserve both the general style and the complete content of the writer.

As you read, you will notice several references to “Keswick” or “Keswick Convention.” Those unfamiliar with this movement should know that it was a revival movement which had its roots in England around 1870. Of further historical interest is an illustration mentioning Lord Nuffield (1877–1963), a wealthy British motor manufacturer and benefactor.

May our Lord use this fine work to “*teach us to pray.*”

Psalm 25:14 says, “The secret of the LORD is with them that fear Him.” The writer of this little book on prayer obviously knew his Lord, and also knew many of His secrets.

In a simple, direct, warm style Guy H. King uncovers these secrets, one by one, from the Scriptures. The reader should not be deceived by the brevity of the chapters. Despite the depth of the subject matter, there is profound, challenging, encouraging, and convicting truth in these short pages.

The author explores the wonders and privileges of coming boldly before Heaven’s Throne as he carefully explains the “protocol” of approaching Royalty. He gently uncovers the delights of a working relationship and conversation with the One we are permitted to address as “Our Father.” It is clear that Mr. King knew about prayer in such a way as only comes through faithful practice of the secrets in the secret place. He presents it all in a fashion that continually focuses on the Object of our praying and glorifies Him for granting us the privilege of such access.

1

The Invitation

“Ask . . . seek . . . knock” —Luke 11:9

We are setting out to think over, talk over, and take over some of the Secrets of Prayer that are disclosed to reverent inquirers in God’s Book. Prayer should occupy a very large place in a Christian’s life, even as it did in that of his Master. Prayer, rightly used, is a tremendous force in the world. It behooves us, therefore, to find out all we can about its secrets. Let us, then, by a definite act of will, and in a real attitude of worship, seek to learn His mind upon this great and holy theme. The text introduces us to what is the first of the Secrets—The Invitation.

God Makes The First Move

It is as well to learn at the very outset that, first, prayer is not forcing our way into God’s presence, but that He has invited us to come in. We never could intrude upon Him. Everything turns upon His gracious willingness to admit us. How reassuring, therefore, that He bids us come and “Ask.” We note also that, second, prayer is not wringing something from a reluctant God. On the contrary, He is “always more ready to hear than we to pray, and...

wont to give more than either we desire or deserve.” It is, further, not unimportant to observe that, third, prayer is not a breaking in upon the laws of God’s universe. Prayer is itself one of those laws. Scorn is sometimes poured upon the objective efficacy of our intercession, because the universe is governed according to the rule of Law. But every law works in with all other laws, and prayer is one of those laws. God has said, “If ye ask . . . I will do . . .” (John 14:14), thus coupling law and effect together. He has taken the initiative, and has invited us to “Ask.”

The Next Move is Ours

It is for us now to accept the wondrous invitation. Yet, how slow we are to do so. Our bodies get tired, our spirits get jaded, our minds get preoccupied, our hearts get lukewarm. So often there is a little alacrity about our prayer life. Strange way to treat a Royal Invitation, isn’t it? He makes an appointment to meet us at The Throne of Grace, and too often we fail to keep the appointment. Moreover, how quick we are to give up. A very little delay in the expected answer is enough to cause most of us to grow weary and disappointed. Yet, in the terms of His invitation, He has warned us that the answer will not necessarily come at once. Asking is, in that case, to be succeeded by seeking; and that should, if necessary, be followed by knocking. The Master has told us in this passage that prayer is like a needy man going to a friend’s house for help. Arriving at the gate, this man may call out to his friend, and Ask for what he wants.

But if he gets no reply, he may make his way round the house, and Seek for his friend, that he may explain his need. And if that will not satisfy, he may go to his door, and Knock until at last he is answered. So does the Lord invite us, not only to pray, but to persevere. The tense of the Greek words justifies us translating as “Keep on asking, keep on seeking, keep on knocking.”

The Last Move is God’s Again

When we have breathed our prayer, that is not the end of the matter, as if there were no other answer to prayer than a subjective one—that is, the happy and healthful influence that it has upon our own soul. Let the multitudinous promises of God’s Word, and the multifarious experiences of man’s life combine to assure us that prayer has objective results as well. Prayer changes things, and prayer gets things. He will not fail the suppliant. His specific word to him is, “Ye shall have”—not always the thing you asked for, but if not that, something you need more. But always something. And He will not fool the suppliant. He does not invite him to “ask” in order that He may mock him. If he ask for bread, He will not give him a stone. Sometimes, instead of bread, he may be joyously surprised to eat cake—but never a stone. Ah yes, when he comes for “water” (Isaiah 55:1), he may often get “wine and milk”!

That is how it is in prayer—our side, and His side, our move, and His move. You remember Jacob’s Ladder. The angels of God were “ascending” and “descending” on it (Genesis 28:12)—as if going up with his needs,

and coming down with God's supplies; his prayers moving up, His answers moving down. Was Jacob's, then, the first move after all? No. God moved first, when He put the ladder there!

This then, is our first Prayer Secret. The realization of the precious truth will make such a difference—when you come into the Presence of God to pray, you are there by Invitation! The Master has a way of issuing His invitations in a very widespread manner. A little child is bidden to come and lispingly “ask” his simple petitions. An aged saint is encouraged to come and patiently “seek” the grace and blessing he desires. Even a sinner is allowed to come and urgently “knock” for one thing: the Bread of Life, the Water of Life. Let no one then hesitate to accept the gracious Invitation on the ground of a realization of deep unworthiness. Of course, we are not worthy to come. We all know that. God knows that better than we do. Yet, in spite of it He bids us come, without fear, without hesitation, without doubt. He has arranged a plan for meeting that unworthiness—but that is another of our Prayer Secrets.