

listening prayer

prayerfully responding to the voice of God

By Brett D. Heintzman

Associate Director of the National Prayer Ministry, FMCUSA



five sessions to deepen your experience of prayer



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session five:

participating in God's divine power and divine nature in prayer

Divine Nature and Divine Power

*His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.
(2 Peter 1:3-4 NIV84)*

God's divine power has given us everything we need to live a life of Godliness. With God's divine power and divine nature available to us, our lives should look entirely different from those in the world. Remember, we are IN the world, but not OF the world (John 17:16)

PowerTools of Divine Nature and Divine Power:

Tool #1: Store Up Righteousness in our Hearts

Righteousness is the catalyst for powerful, effective praying.

The human heart is like a warehouse of motives, agendas, ideals, viewpoints, prejudices or acceptances, views on people, places and things. The contents of our hearts are revealed through our speaking. The things we "bring out" of the storehouse of our heart reveal our true character and nature. What is stored up in your heart affects the way you pray.

*The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks.
(Luke 6:45 NIV84)*

- The contents of our hearts inform and fill our praying.

The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it? "I the LORD search the heart and examine the mind, to reward a man according to his conduct, according to what his deeds deserve." (Jeremiah 17:9-10)

- There is no end to the depths of depravity from the human heart. God can change hard hearts to spiritually alive hearts with His holy love.

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. (James 5:16 NIV)

- Righteousness is not a list of religious behaviors, but rather, what is in your heart. Are you crucified to the world and world to you? Is His purity and goodness in you?

Prayers that are Spoken from Misguided Hearts and Motives

- **Self-Absorbed Praying** – When people pray only for those things that affect themselves, their lifestyle, their comfort, their health, their finances, their emotions, or their own struggles.
- **Multiplied Abundance Praying** – Asking God for “more” when our needs are already more than met.
- **Golden Parachute Prayers** – “God, if you do this for me I’ll never ask another thing of you...”
- **Intention Without Action** – Demonstrating concern for another by saying, “I’ll pray for you,” but then never actually praying.

Omitted Prayers due to Misguided Hearts and Motives

- **Psalms 139 Prayers** – “Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.” (Psalms 139:23-24 NIV84)
- **Perseverance Prayers** – “Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.” (James 1:2-4 NIV84)
- **Trust Prayers** – “Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and shun evil.” (Proverbs 3:5-7 NIV84)
- **Just Enough Prayers** - “Keep falsehood and lies far from me; give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread. Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you and say, ‘Who is the LORD?’ Or I may become poor and steal, and so dishonor the name of my God.” (Proverbs 30:8-9 NIV84)

Encounters with God reset the Heart

*In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another: “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.” At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke. **“Woe to me!” I cried. “I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty.”** Then one of the seraphs flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. With it he touched my mouth and said, “See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for.” Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I. Send me!” (Isaiah 6:1-8 NIV84)*

- We can converse with the Living God in His Throne Room.
- Encounters with God keep our hearts honest ... righteous.

Tool #2: The Keys of the Kingdom

Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, 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." (Matthew 16:16-19 NIV84)

What is *Binding* and what is *Loosing*?

Verbal Binding:

1. To restrict movement and activity through tying, as with rope, chains, or other restriction.
2. To enter into a legal agreement.

Tie up or Restrict – "Devil, I bind you in the Name of Jesus and issue a command in His Name that you cease your actions."

Make agreements – "God, we come in the name of Jesus, asking that heaven and earth be joined as you heal, provide, restore, deliver."

Verbal Loosing:

1. To release freely into the atmosphere.
2. To break off something restrictive.

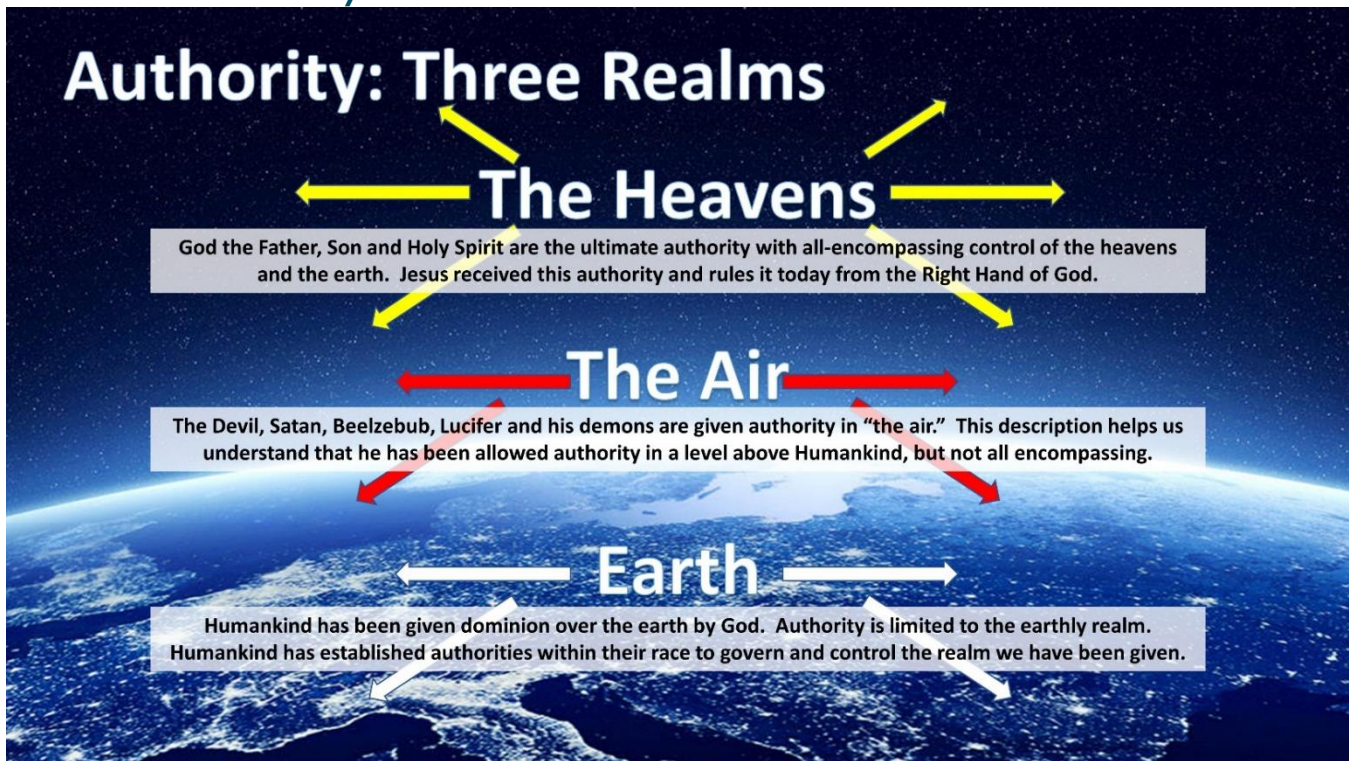
Release / Emit – "In the name of Jesus, we release the peace of heaven in this place. We release freedom to those in bondage. We speak release to this person gripped by addiction."

Break off / Free from – "In the name of Jesus, we break all agreements with the devil, breaking chains of bondage and destroying the devil's strongholds in the mind."

Verbal BINDING ties up the enemy of God and makes agreements with heaven on behalf of those being prayer for.

Verbal LOOSING releases the power of God and dissolves agreements with hell on behalf of those being prayed for.

Tool #3: Authority



Heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'The kingdom of God is near you.' (Luke 10:9 NIV84)

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. (Ephesians 2:1-2 NIV84)

God's Kingdom:

- His rule (ways) and reign (authority) in a realm (territory/jurisdiction).
- There are three realms and three ruling authorities. Heaven/God, The Air/Satan & Demons, Earth/Mankind.
- Each one has rule, reign, and a realm.

The seventy-two returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name." He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven." (Luke 10:17-20 NIV84)

- You can't act if you have no authority to do so.
- The necessary link between the Spirit and Authority.
- Matthew 10:1. Jesus has the authority to give authority to those He pleases.

Tool #4: Fasting

Because we do not live on bread alone, but by every Word that comes from God.

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" (Matthew 4:1-4 NIV)

Jesus quotes Deuteronomy 8:3

He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your ancestors had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD. (Deuteronomy 8:3 NIV)

More important than physical food, are the words of God. That's what Jesus quoted to the devil!

In listening prayer, more important than physical sustenance are the words we will receive from God.

- Jesus was weak, *but He was strong in the Lord.*
- Jesus was tempted, *but He was prepared!*
- Jesus had fasted from FOOD *but feasted on GOD'S WORDS.*

God's Words are the FEAST of every FAST.