

“The Power of Prayer”

By McKade Marshall

So I recently got two new puppies. Their names are Levi and Lily. Levi is named after yours truly. Lily is named after the flower of beauty. These two small creatures have been one of the greatest joys of my life in recent months. I thank God that He created animals and all of creation for us to enjoy (1 Timothy 6:17). Despite my busy schedule, I have enjoyed taking these cute little puppies to get their series of puppy shots, buying them all sorts of fun chew toys and treats, and training them to run up puppy stairs next to my bed. Who would have ever thought a couple of puppies was just what I needed to finish off the brutal year of 2020?

The truth is God already knew exactly what I needed to make life a little brighter, richer, and more satisfying.

The reason I'm talking about puppies today, which seems to not be spiritual in and of itself, is because before Levi and Lily came into my life I had already been talking to close friends and family members about wanting a new dog. At the time I only had one small dog in mind. A couple of months after mentioning wanting a new pet, a friend came by to show me two puppies wrapped in a soft blanket inside a blue bucket that were only a couple of weeks old. She told me she was looking for them a new home. I was instantly smitten by this tiny duo! The next day she asked me which one I wanted - smiling really big I said, "I want both of them!" After all, why would I choose one or the other when I could just have both?

While driving home with the new puppies on the first night I was overwhelmed by a sense of awe in the presence of God. Taking on new pets is a big responsibility - especially for someone as busy and on-the-go as myself. The power of the Holy Spirit was so strong as I considered how God orchestrated getting these sweet puppies into my life. While I had prayed about getting a new pet, I never really acted on it. I didn't visit any shelters or search online for dogs. It just happened, seemingly overnight. In the same way, I believe God is going to cause some things in your life to fall into place. God is always watching you. He cares about what you care about. When you are set on serving Him, He pays attention to the desires of your heart.

King David writes in Psalm 139:1-4 (NLT), "O LORD, You have examined my heart and know everything about me. You know when I sit down or stand up. You know my thoughts even when I'm far away. You see me when I travel and when I rest at home. You know everything I do. You know what I am going to say even before I say it, LORD." Before I ever had the thought that I needed something new in my life - like in this case, puppies - God already knew about it and had a plan. The Lord is interested in every detail of our lives. When we pray, it is not just so God will finally have a clue what we are concerned about. Prayer is so we will see that God hears us and that He responds to whatever it is we are praying about.

Your prayers are powerful.

Not long ago I was praying before work, and God began to show me a vision on the movie screen of my mind. As I prayed I began to see right above me a huge angel. This angel was radiant and glorious, like an angel you would read about in the Bible. As I looked at this angel in the Spirit, he had six wings and hands like a seraph (see Isaiah 6:2). He would flap his wings and clap his hands together. When the angel clapped, a powerful force was released across the earth. The power was so strong I could hear a sonic boom noise from the angel's great strength. As I stared in awe at the angel just above me, the angel looked down and said, "Tell me what to do, McKade." At first I was taken aback. Then I told the angel, "Bring truth and justice." I did not know what else to say. It was the only thing I could think of. In response, the angel flapped his mighty wings together and declared with a loud voice, "Bring truth and justice!" The power and sheer energy coming from the angel's wings caused a shock wave to go forth across the land.

I then began to think about what I had just seen in the Spirit. I know we do not pray to angels, but rather, to God the Father directly through the Son (John 16:23). However, angels are the ones whom God uses to answer our prayers.

When you pray, God and His holy angels are listening. There is nothing weak or powerless about you when you pray. You have eternal beings attentively waiting, listening, and ready to respond to your prayers. When you pray, you are stirring up entire spiritual armies to go to work in the unseen realm. When you pray, you are inviting lasting change and new things to start taking place.

An active prayer life can take you from being a victim of life to being a victor in life.

When you learn to develop an active prayer life, you are no longer subject to what happens to you. You can be on the offense instead of always on the defense. Prayer is a weapon God has given you to defeat the enemy every time. There is no greater name than the name of Jesus. All things are subject to Him and to His Great Name. Heaven and earth bow to the name of Jesus Christ. Recently, around the time of the US elections, I was getting ready for bed, and the Lord showed me a vision of Heaven. As I walked into this massive auditorium-like building in Heaven, I asked the Lord where everyone was. There were no angels or saints. The room was empty. The Father then said to me that His people on earth were praying more now than they had in a long time. The angels were busy at work down on earth in response to so many prayers!

This revelation of the empty auditorium, or place of assembling, in Heaven reminded me that angels are only as busy as God's people are. If God's people are not praying, then God's angels have fewer assignments to fulfill. I don't know about you, but I want the awesome things of Heaven to come down to earth! My prayer is that the Church would be so busy praying that God's angels would have no time to rest. During Jesus' ministry, His prayer was for Heaven (where He is from) to be found here on earth. **Jesus says in Matthew 6:10 (NASB), "Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven."** God's will is that the supernatural power, perfection, and holiness of Heaven be experienced here on the earth today.

The true gospel is full of supernatural power.

When Jesus ministered on earth, He did not just use clever words and well-crafted speeches in His public ministry. He not only taught the Word, but He demonstrated the power of the Holy Spirit and the gospel with signs, wonders, and miracles. I don't believe God set up the Church in order to just be a place to hear good messages and learn some things about God. *God designed the Church to also be a place of demonstrating His supernatural power.* The Church is where people come to experience God's holy presence and the power of Heaven. **Hebrews 6:5 says that through the Holy Spirit we taste the goodness of God's Word and experience the power of the age to come.**

Right now I believe you have full access to the power of God through prayer. The only requirement to experiencing the supernatural power of Christ's gospel is to believe. When you believe God can heal and do the impossible, angels go to work. The seraphim flap their wings, and God's power is released. Whatever breakthrough you need today, God can cause it to happen. While we may not understand why we are going through a loss, a setback, or a disappointment, God is still not caught off guard. He knows exactly what He is doing. This world is not our home. Not long ago I was listening to a message by a minister who had several experiences of seeing and experiencing Heaven in the Spirit.

As I listened to this minister share their experiences of what Heaven is like, I began to have an encounter with the Lord of my own. During my personal time of worship, I began to see Heaven in the spiritual realm. I could see everything in three dimensions, almost like something you would see in a Hollywood film. I was surrounded by gold and light. Immediately I knew God was showing me in part (1 Corinthians 13:9) what Heaven looked like. As I walked along the streets of gold I looked up, and there was a huge wall. The wall was about 1,400 miles high (see Revelation 21:16). The wall had intricate weavings and all sorts of precious stones in it. I was amazed as I was having this far out vision that felt so real. I believe God showed me this vision because He wanted to show me that Heaven is real.

Not only is Heaven real, it is even more real than the world we now live in.

The world we live in will one day be completely destroyed. Nothing you can physically see right now is going to last (2 Peter 3:7). Everyone's soul will go on to eternity somewhere. To those who have accepted Jesus Christ, they will spend eternity in Heaven. To those who have rejected Christ and God's Word, they will spend eternity in hell. There is no in between. As believers, we pray to the God of Heaven. The things we need on earth come from Heaven. When you pray, your prayers are being heard in the Heavenly realms. A few years ago I was attending a worship

service at Maranatha Fellowship before getting up to preach. The week before the service I was having headaches all week long. I don't usually have headaches so this symptom was rather uncommon for me.

During the middle of a worship song, Janet Chapman (whom I've talked about several times before who is now with the Lord in Heaven) stopped playing the music and said she felt led to pray for someone who wasn't feeling well in the congregation. She began to say she felt like it was someone who was having chronic headaches and needed prayer. I began to slide my hand up, as no one else said a word. Janet then spoke a word of healing, and immediately the headache left! Since that day I have not had headaches like the ones I had the week before Janet spoke a word of healing. This experience I had is straight from the Scriptures. *The Bible tells us that God has given all believers different gifts of the Holy Spirit from Heaven.* One of those gifts is healing.

1 Corinthians 12:9 (NCV) tells us, "The same Spirit gives faith to one person. And, to another, that one Spirit gives gifts of healing." Clearly, Janet had the gift of healing when she ministered to me that day. In the same way, God has given you some spiritual gifts that He wants you to use for His glory. You are not powerless, my friend. You are a disciple of Jesus Christ, and therefore, you can do powerful works just as He did (John 14:12). The 9 spiritual gifts God has given us are listed in 1 Corinthians 12:8-10. The gifts listed are (1) the word of wisdom, (2) the word of knowledge, (3) faith, (4) gifts of healing, (5) working of miracles, (6) prophecy, (7) distinguishing of spirits, (8) various kinds of tongues, and (9) interpretation of tongues. Not long ago I challenged both myself and the congregation at Maranatha Fellowship to memorize these gifts. I told them I found myself able to rattle off the 9 FRUIT of the Holy Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control from Galatians 5:22-23), but I could not list the 9 GIFTS of the Holy Spirit.

I was actually a little embarrassed that I had grown up in the church my whole life and yet could not list the gifts of the Spirit as easily. Maybe I was being too hard on myself, but then again, maybe not. Maybe the church has failed us in teaching all God has to offer us through the Holy Spirit and His written Word. Now I pray every single morning to the Lord asking Him to prune me to bear more good fruit (and I list aloud the 9 fruit of the Spirit); then I ask Him to stir up the 9 gifts of the Holy Spirit in me and in His people (and I list the 9 gifts of the Spirit out loud). I encourage you to try this in your own prayer time with the Lord everyday. Ask the Lord to help you bear more fruit and operate in the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Your prayers and gifts of the Spirit are powerful weapons in the spiritual realm.

One reason I believe this ministry God has given me to stewards continues to grow on a daily basis is because of the prayers and ongoing support of people like you. I could not continue to reach more people every day with gospel videos, newsletters, and books without the prayers of my faithful partners in ministry. When I first began writing in 2014, only a handful of people received my first seasonal newsletter. **Today gospel newsletters are traveling to people in all 50 US states PLUS 10 countries abroad every three months!** The power of prayer has no boundaries, and God's love has no borders. When we faithfully pray, there is nothing God will not do for His people.

At the end of 2016, the Lord laid it upon my heart to begin filming weekly gospel videos for my readers and viewers. These weekly videos are called "Word of the Week". Since January 1, 2017, over 200 Sunday evening "Word of the Week" messages have been edited, uploaded, emailed, and shared with people all over the world. Weekly emails are sent to subscribers in all 50 US states, the Netherlands, Pakistan, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Japan, Australia, Cape Verde, Canada, Denmark, Kenya, Trinidad and Tobago, the Emirates, the United Kingdom (Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales & England), Sweden, Ethiopia, New Zealand, Ireland, Israel, and Italy.

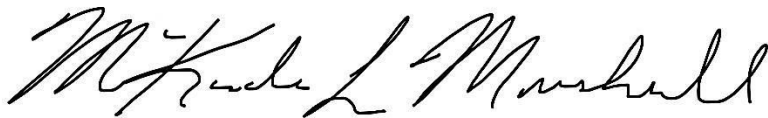
By faith I'm still calling in all 195 countries of the world, and I invite you to join me through prayer and giving in this divine quest to reach more souls with the gospel message of salvation and God's goodness.

For those who are counting sheep (or in this case, countries!), gospel emails are reaching 19 out of 195 countries every week. We are almost 10% of the way there! Gospel newsletters are physically mailed out to 11 of these 19 countries. I am still believing by faith that one day the books, videos, newsletters, and other media produced by MLM Publishing will touch souls in every single country of the world for God's Kingdom. If you have a moment, please stop and pray for this mass media ministry. I believe prayer is the rocket fuel that is going to launch us to the next level! Also, please prayerfully consider donating to help reach more souls for God's Kingdom. Men and women from all over the world have given online and donated by mail. 100% of every donation is used to promote ads to reach new people and for ministry purposes.

If you know someone that is not signed up to receive these newsletters, or you are not signed up, I encourage you to go to mlmpublishing.org, or my personal website mckademarshall.com, and submit your information there. Also, I email thousands of subscribers a weekly gospel message every Sunday evening called "Word of the Week". If you or someone you know that might be interested is not subscribed, please make sure to add your email addresses as well. I do not want you to miss out on these encouraging, faith-filled weekly messages.

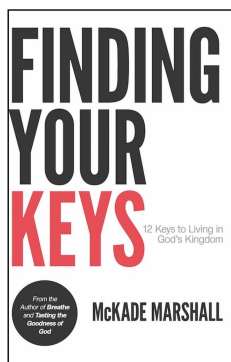
I declare this winter you are going to experience the power of prayer like never before. When you pray, angels are being released from Heaven with the answer. The walls, barriers, and opposition of the past are coming down. You are going to new levels of freedom and success as you seek God first each day. You are being pruned by the Lord to bear more good fruit, and you are fanning the flame of God to operate more in the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Christ's Spirit is giving you fresh new vision so you can run the race set before you in confidence. With the Lord's help, there is nothing you cannot achieve! I love you, and I am praying for you.

Prayerfully Yours,

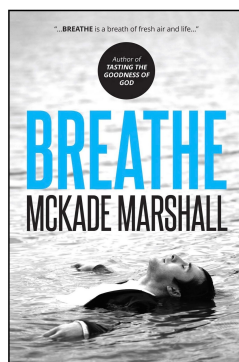


McKade "Levi" Marshall
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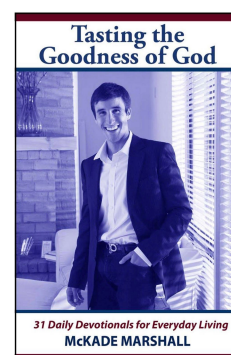
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