



# Lighthouse Beacon

New Mexico Lighthouses of Prayer - July 2002

## Prayer's Power

*We talk about the power of prayer, but we tend to forget the source of that power — powerful prayer is God centered and God driven. Dr. Alvin VanderGriend, National Facilitator of Lighthouse Ministries of the Mission America Coalition reminds us of where the power in prayer really comes from. —KC (By the way, have a great summer!)*

### Prayer Starts with God

“The Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And He who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accord with God’s will.” Romans 8:26-27

I want to share a radical thought. It has transformed my way of praying and my way of thinking about prayer.

For years I believed that my prayers started with me. I had to think them up. I had to get God’s attention. Not surprisingly, with this frame of mind, prayer was often a chore.

I learned that I was wrong. Prayer doesn’t start with us. Prayer starts with God. That’s the radical idea that changed my prayer life. God is the initiator. He moves us to pray. He gives us prayer ideas. He holds out the promises we claim in prayer. When we pray, we are God’s instruments.

God works in our prayers. He makes His will known to us so that we will ask for the very things He longs to give us. Out of love He burdens us to pray for others so that, in response to our intercession, He can pour out blessings on them.

And it’s the Spirit, says Paul, which

makes our prayer possible. We don’t know what to pray, but we don’t have to. The Spirit is there revealing God’s will to us in the Scriptures and bringing God’s prayer concerns to life within us. He is nudging us through circumstances and opening our eyes to the needs around us. He is searching our hearts and trying our ways so that He can bring us to true repentance. He is revealing the glory and the goodness of God so that our prayers will be filled with praise and thanks.



We can be confident that God will hear when we come to Him. God answers every prayer that starts in heaven, every prayer born in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, every prayer based on a sure promise from His Word.

If prayer starts with God, then the first order of business as we learn to pray is to learn to listen to God’s whispers, to tune our hearts to Him, to respond to His promptings.

Perhaps the first prayer of each day should be “Lord, teach me to pray. Help me to understand Your purposes, to feel Your burdens, to see what You see, to hear the groans You hear, so that my prayers may be pleasing to You and may accomplish Your purposes.”

How about starting right now: “Lord, teach me to pray today”

...you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light —Eph. 5:8

### Will God Respond To My Prayers ?

Is prayer a chore or a joy for you? Jesus said that if we abide in Him, and He in us, our prayers will be answered by the Father (John 15). What can we do to help us abide in Christ when we pray? Here’s are suggestions to help you in your prayers.

### Pray Romans 8:26-27

- Praise the Lord as the prayer-initiating, prayer-hearing God.
- Ask God to make prayer a joy for you.
- Thank God for the gift of hearing His thoughts – pray them back to Him.

### Abiding, Obedient Prayers Please God

Scriptures tell us to pray for those around us and to pray unceasingly. Ask God to lead you, revealing who He wants you to pray for, and what He wants you to pray. Remember, God is already at work in the lives of people all around you. So let the Holy Spirit nudge you on how to pray for your neighbors or work associates.

### Pray BLESSings on those around you:

- **Body.** Pray that the Father in heaven Who “causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous,” will bless them (Matthew 5:45).
- **Labor.** Pray that they may have employment and adequate compensation from it. “He who tends a fig tree will eat its fruit” (Proverbs 27:18).
- **Emotional.** Pray that they will take their cares, hurts and disappointments to the Lord. “Cast all your anxiety on him because He cares for you” (1 Peter 5:7).
- **Social.** Pray for love, devotion and sexual purity in marriages. “Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure” (Hebrews 13:4).
- **Spiritual.** Pray that they will call on the name of the Lord and be saved (Acts

### National Pastor’s Prayer Network

The National Pastor's Prayer Network is designed to bring pastors and prayer leaders together in prayer. As a part of the Mission America Coalition and The Lighthouse Movement, the NPPN is a wonderful resource for praying pastors and their churches.

### 911 Remembered

Mission America, Lighthouses, and their partner ministries are encouraging Christian churches everywhere to hold special Remembrance Services this September 11<sup>th</sup>.

### September 11<sup>th</sup> Remembrance Church Services Goals:

- Christians will invite friends and neighbors to a local church service on 9/11/02.
- Every person in our nation will be offered an invitation to attend a Remembrance Service on Wednesday, September 11th.
- Churches will remember those who died and offer hope to those who live.
- Churches will have the opportunity to demonstrate the relevance of the Gospel.
- Attendees will be given a clear invitation to worship and Sunday School at the church on the Sunday following September 11<sup>th</sup> and into the fall church year.

Encourage your church to host a September 11<sup>th</sup> Remembrance Church Service. A **FREE Pastor/Church Kit** - with samples of bulletin inserts, church newsletter articles, letters, invitations, service suggestions and commitment cards - is available online at [http://www.911remembrance.com/ch\\_resource.html](http://www.911remembrance.com/ch_resource.html). For additional information and updates, visit [www.911remembrance.com](http://www.911remembrance.com).

“Let your light shine so that others may see your good works and glorify your father in heaven.” Matt 5:16