

STACI WALLACE

FOREWORD BY NICOLE BINION

FUELED
by
FIRE

BECOMING A WOMAN OF

*Courage, Faith
and Influence*

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*Courage, Faith
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STACI WALLACE



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Fueled by Fire • Staci Wallace

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This book is for the woman who wonders if her life truly has significance. She has worked hard to keep her ship sailing but wonders if she will ever get to the other side of her journey and whether or not she will leave an impact on this world as she had hoped. She longs for peace and works for profits, but deep inside her heart, she knows she was born for something greater.

Unimpressed with the popular rhetoric about female liberation, she is fully persuaded that God has uniquely ordained her womanhood for greatness and is determined to see it radiate His brilliance. She is unmoved by the common message that tries to get her to compete with the men or masculine energy around her. She is, instead, moved to find the sweet spot of collaboration that allows God to use her beautiful femininity to partner with God's greater humanity.

Now is the time for a new generation of confident women of God to arise and be empowered by the Holy Spirit to launch into greater places of influence. You are that woman. You are about to turn your success into significance and your mess into a message of hope for millions. You are powerful beyond words, and when you are fueled by fire, *nothing will be impossible.*

This book is *for you!*

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Foreword

When I met Staci Wallace in September 2018, my husband and I had just jumped into the most radical *yes* that we had ever given Jesus. In our 25-plus years of marriage and full-time ministry, we have walked out a life of obedience to the Lord and given Him our surrender over and over again. But in 2017, for the second time in our lives, He asked us to walk away from a secure, prestigious position as worship pastors at a megachurch and launch out into the unknown once again.

I have found that God typically does not hand out the details of where He is leading us when He invites us to follow. He is simply looking for a trusting heart with a *yes* that does not pick and choose but offers complete obedience, knowing that is where the abundant life is found that Jesus talked about in John 10.

My heart connected with Staci's immediately, and I soon discovered that she and her husband were also in the middle of walking out their radical *yes* to Jesus. It is no wonder we connected. Deep calls to deep. They, too, had stepped into the unknown, following Jesus with complete surrender.

This type of surrender precedes the fueled-by-fire life. In whatever sphere of influence you operate, God is looking for your

complete surrender to Him so that He can use you for Kingdom purposes. Humanity is God's *magnum opus*, His greatest work. When it came to creating humanity, God did not speak us into existence as He did all other creation, but He formed and shaped us into His image. It is the greatest privilege to partner with God to reach His *magnum opus* through the platform and influence He has given uniquely to each one of us.

Before He ascended into heaven, Jesus left us with the Great Commission. I like how the Message translation states this Commission:

“Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life, marking them by baptism in the threefold name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Then instruct them in the practice of all I have commanded you.”

Matthew 28:19–20 MSG

Days after Jesus issued this Great Commission, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit came into the Upper Room, where the devoted were waiting on the Lord for this great promise. Scripture describes this outpouring of the Spirit as “tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them” (Acts 2:3). A crowd of God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven heard the sound coming from the Upper Room and began to gather. They said, “We hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!” (Acts 2:11). When filled with the fire of the Holy Spirit, believers were able to speak in a language that penetrated the hearts of those who had not yet received the revelation of Jesus, and many were saved!

There is no doubt that the marketplace is the sphere of influence God has given Staci Wallace. Because of her success in business and her complete surrender to Jesus to lay it all down and follow Him wherever He says to go, she functions in an authority in this system that is powerful and unique. And she is anointed to impart this authority to you. But until you give Jesus *your* radical *yes*, her words will be only information. With your complete surrender to

Jesus, Staci's words in this book will bring transformation into your life.

The following Scripture has become a life verse for me as I continue to walk out my *yes*, and I believe it is key in living a life fueled by fire:

Whatever God has promised gets stamped with the Yes of Jesus. In him, this is what we preach and pray, the great Amen, God's Yes and our Yes together, gloriously evident. God affirms us, making us a sure thing in Christ, putting his Yes within us. By his Spirit he has stamped us with his eternal pledge—a sure beginning of what he is destined to complete.

2 Corinthians 1:20–22 MSG

Nicole Binion, worship recording artist;
co-pastor, Dwell Church

Preface

What happens when a woman walks in the power of the Spirit?

She begins to defy her broken emotions, elevates beyond logic, silences her critics, rises up over fear and doubt, leads armies and breaks records. Her pursuit is not the applause of others, nor is she motivated by rhetoric calling her to appease a feminist agenda. But she hungers to use her femininity to reflect the nurturing and reproductive heart of God to her generation.

A woman who is empowered by the Holy Spirit and fueled by His fire knows she has been set apart with a higher purpose to set captives free, break chains of bondage, negotiate on behalf of legacy, birth revolutions and save generations by her willingness to risk failure and become a force of change in the world.

So let me ask you, “What fuels you?” What causes you to wake up every morning and step out of your comfort zone with a purpose and a passion to break records? For Olympic athletes, that fuel may be the dream of a gold medal. For a new mom, it may be the precious sounds of her newborn baby. For entrepreneurs, it may be the passion to do more, acquire more or achieve more.

- What makes you want to get up every morning and determine to never give up?
- What makes you refuse to hit snooze on the alarm clock because it drives you to use the day to move one step closer to your dream?
- What will drive you beyond success and give you the fuel you need to leave an imprint on this world? Is it your family? Is it your job? Is it your spouse? Or could it be something more . . . perhaps something that has been missing in your life?

That is what this book is about—helping you find a fire on the inside so you can become the superhero you were born to be.

Girl, there is a reason you are reading this book. You *know* God has more for you than what you are currently getting, and your hunger drives you to find out how to get the most out of life. No matter what your history looks like or what you had to do to make it here, God is about to use your history to leave a legacy of hope, help and healing for the world around you.

Fueled by Fire is a “how-to” book written to equip you with the spiritual mindset and toolset you need to have supernatural discernment in the boardroom, wisdom in the classroom, compassion at home and the miracle-working power of God in every area of your life. You will receive clear instructions on how to cooperate with your God-given destiny as His conduit of miracles, abundance, spiritual authority and financial prosperity to the people around you.

This book is not meant to make you comfortable. On the contrary, it was written to disrupt the status quo, awaken your spirit and ignite your passion for taking action so that, together, we can make change happen in this world. Now is the time for you to break out of mediocrity and start winning again. You may not realize it, but God has been intricately preparing you for years “for such a time as this” (Esther 4:14).

Introduction

B.O.O.M. (Breaking Out of Mediocrity)

Several years ago, I had been hearing social buzz about the premiere of the new *Wonder Woman* movie. I am not usually an avid movie fan, and I often tend to be one of those people who overspiritualize movies, especially if they do not give credit to God as the supreme source of “all power.” But for some reason, when I heard they were bringing *Wonder Woman* back to the big screen, I was filled with anticipation. Maybe it was because people had called me Wonder Woman and Warrior Queen for years. Perhaps it was watching popular culture and recognizing a spiritual shift in the marketplace all around me. Great attention was suddenly being put on female leadership, the Me-too movement, hyperfeminism and now a sudden resurgence of superheroines in popular culture.

We bought our tickets the moment they went on sale, and to commemorate my excitement, my sweet family bought me a Wonder Woman T-shirt, coffee mug and set of gold-trimmed Wonder Woman dinnerware. Clearly, they were equally as excited to see what this new Princess Warrior film would offer. After opening

the many presents, I fell asleep that night with great excitement in my heart.

The next morning, at three o'clock, I woke up with the word *supersonic* resonating in my mind. I rolled over and tried to fall back to sleep, but the word continued to flash in my consciousness like neon lights on Broadway. Dragging myself out of bed that morning was not easy, but I knew I needed to look up and meditate on the word *supersonic*. What did it mean? What was the Holy Spirit trying to say to me? So I wiped my eyes, rolled out of bed and shuffled to my office.

Dreams have always been one of the primary ways God has spoken to me during some of my most trying times of sorrow and during some of my biggest business negotiations. Dreams have given me courage and wisdom to know how to take dominion in boardrooms, pray for the sick, execute strategies in business that required great boldness and even find direction on how to raise my children during the chaos of puberty. When a dream with such a clear message makes its way into my subconscious, I take heed to what is being said.

This dream came during a season of great transition in our lives. Just over a year earlier, the company I worked with closed its doors suddenly and unexpectedly. I was a senior vice president and had to shift companies practically overnight. Thankfully, God directed me into another season of financial success, but for some reason, I was feeling unfulfilled and unsettled in my spirit. According to the world's standards, I was winning, but oftentimes a lingering emptiness deep inside left me curled up in the fetal position, crying out for understanding.

What was happening to me? Why all the up-and-down emotions despite the success? My husband, Larry, looked at me one day and jokingly said, "Are you okay? Honey, why are you so sad? Could you be going through menopause?" Risky statement for a man to

make, but we both knew something was off. He is lucky I was as baffled as he was because there are fighting words where I am from! We laughed about it because my emotions were all over the map and I had no explanation why. Then it dawned on me: I very well could be going through the Big M. Maybe that explained why I was feeling so disturbed despite the blessings all around.

After thirty years in business and ministry, I have learned that life is like a roller coaster. The highs and lows are not by accident. Great roller coaster architects design the ups and downs to create intentional moments of shift that equate to a thrilling ride that makes you say, "Let's do it again!" Similarly, the roller coaster of life God has allowed us to experience is not designed to scare us but to shift us from one season to the next. God uses the highs to inspire us and the lows to empower us to dig deeper, grow stronger and gain greater wisdom for what lies ahead. Sometimes pain births new beginnings, and setbacks are actually a *setup* for something beautiful on the horizon.

My first thought that morning after waking up to the word *supersonic* was that maybe God was telling us to start a Sonic Drive-In franchise. I love Sonic's Cherry Limeades, and several friends have had great success with the franchise. But surely God did not wake me up to give me a vision about selling cheeseburgers and tater tots. As I suspected, after studying *supersonic* it became abundantly clear that I was downloading a message from heaven that was greater than the thought of starting a fast-food restaurant and much more eternally significant.

I discovered that the word *supersonic* means a speed greater than sound. A sonic boom is the sound associated with shock waves created when an object travels through the air faster than the speed of sound, creating a boom or explosion to the human ear. Not only does this supersonic boom occur at anywhere from Mach 1 to Mach 5, but there is also such thing as a Mach 5 to 10 hypersonic boom. Then there is a Mach 10 to 25 superhypersonic boom, which is even more powerful. Lastly, what happens beyond

Mach 25 is called a reentry boom, which is so powerful it can trigger earthquakes and shake the planet.¹

Maybe you are wondering where I am going with this story and what it has to do with seeing the movie *Wonder Woman*. Snap on your seat belt, because I am about to show you something that literally changed my life and my perspective on power.

First, please know that I am by no means qualified to talk about scientific discoveries. Quite frankly, I dropped out of college to start my own business, and science was not my favorite subject in school because I was focused primarily on three things: basketball, music and theatre. Perhaps that was to my advantage because today I cannot attribute my success in the marketplace to my pedigree or scholastic success. Not that there is anything wrong with education. I encourage it. But my secret sauce has simply been my ability to stop, listen and meditate when the Holy Spirit gives me supernatural downloads that exceed human understanding.

That morning, I asked God to give me a deep understanding of the “supersonic” message. I felt led to look up Scriptures about earthquakes in the Bible. And that is when the hair on my arms stood at attention and I saw the first supersonic shockwave ever recorded.

And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit.

At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. *The earth shook, the rocks split and the tombs broke open.* The bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life.

Matthew 27:50–52, emphasis added

Something beyond human understanding happened that day when Jesus said *yes!* to His Father and submitted to a willingness to do anything to fulfill His greater purpose. When He gave up His spirit, the earth quaked and the veil was torn. Satan thought

he had won the ultimate victory and was probably having a party with his fellow demons as they sat back and laughed at the persecution, degradation and crucifixion of his archrival.

Where was God during the violation of His Son? Why didn't He stop the process and rescue His beloved child? Have you ever been falsely accused or suffered through shame and sorrow? Have you ever felt abandoned, rejected, abused or violated? Those were just a few of the emotions that were hanging on the cross that day when Satan thought his enemy was defeated. But the story was not over yet. The ultimate victory was on its way.

Jesus' spirit was so powerful it broke the sound barrier with the intensity of a Mach 25-plus reentry boom. When His spirit left His body, the earth quaked and the veil was torn. Jesus was the first to B.O.O.M. (break out of mediocrity) and shake off the cloak of humanity that was placed upon Him. When He rose from the grave, the earth quaked again. And another BOOM! took place, and all who were asleep were raised from their graves. Neither the earth nor the grave were powerful enough to contain Him.

Where did that power come from to raise Jesus and those who slept from their graves?

From the Holy Spirit.

As the disciples gathered together in perfect unity, harmony and oneness, fire from heaven fell: "The place where they were meeting *was shaken*. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly" (Acts 4:31, emphasis added). BOOM! happened again. This time it was so we might live with the same power of the Holy Spirit to step out of our mediocre mindsets and become the powerful agents of change God has destined us to be. Suddenly, the same power that raised Jesus from the dead now lived inside every believer.

Seat belt still on? Good. Because later that same day is when I finally watched *Wonder Woman*. There is a scene in the movie when her enemies are pressing in on her and her people, and instead of cowering in fear, she crosses her arms and bows her

head and that is when a supersonic shockwave goes out of her body and annihilates her enemies for miles. When I watched that scene of the movie, something was triggered inside me as if an awakening was taking place. I cried as I envisioned myself as the leading character, fueled by the fire of the Holy Spirit with a supernatural power on earth. I felt a shift inside my heart take place and a courage overwhelm my being. I left the movie ready to embrace anything God might call me to do, even if it meant going where others had been unwilling to go and doing what others were unwilling to do.

While *Wonder Woman*, the movie, gave zero credit to God for the power she possessed, I am confident that true empowerment comes from the Holy Spirit and fuels us with a fire that defies impossibilities.

As a believer, you are not of this world. You have been given a supernatural, supersonic power to overcome darkness. You are to be in this world, but not of this world (see John 17:14–16). You, too, are called to BOOM!—break out of mediocrity.

Imagining yourself as a superhero is often difficult due to the incredible pressures you face as a woman on any given day. Every woman faces inner voices that tell her she is not good enough, qualified or capable of changing the world in any way. Whether in business, family relationships or everyday life, those gnarly voices of defeat come to kill, steal and destroy your God-given power and influence.

Once the Holy Spirit empowers you, however, everything changes. You may feel less than qualified, the least likely to succeed or overwhelmed with the pressures of life. You may have dirty diapers piling up that keep you grounded in thoughts of mediocrity. Perhaps you are surrounded by people who remind you of your limitations. But the pressures of life are actually what create our greatest pearls of wisdom. And here is one other interesting fact about supersonic

booms. They can only take place when an immense amount of air pressure is placed around a fast-moving object.

The pressure produces the BOOM!

Likewise, when you embrace your God-given superpowers, you have the potential to turn the dynamic tension of circumstances around you into creative solutions that birth new companies, launch nonprofit organizations, overturn broken policies and influence nations.

Through this book, you are about to embark on a fast-moving journey that helps you turn the pressures of your life into supersonic power that the Holy Spirit can use to put you in places of influence so that your voice, your life and your story can change the world.

Are you ready for a new alter ego that allows you to become more than you thought you could be? If so, then strap on your cape, draw your sword and position your crown. You are about to learn how to win over your adversaries, silence your inner critic and bust out of your comfort zone to become the woman of strength, influence and power you were destined to be.

part one

UNLEASHING YOUR INNER SUPERHERO

unleash (verb):

: to free from or as if from a leash

: let loose; to throw, shoot

or set in motion forcefully¹

1

Satan's Kryptonite

She was small in stature and quiet in nature, but her prayers penetrated the heavens.

I was born in Dallas, Texas, to very young parents. My mom was seventeen and my dad was eighteen when they married. They met when they were only twelve and thirteen. As young as they were, they had great faith and a deep desire to be used by God to do something significant in the world. My grandfather was the pastor of a church in the South Oak Cliff community of Dallas. My dad played the piano at church and directed the choir while my mom played the organ.

When I was only eighteen months old, my parents faced the painful reality that I was a very sick little girl. What seemed to be a cold turned into pneumonia. Doctors were concerned because they could not seem to make the symptoms go away. After continuous bouts of pneumonia and many tests, our family doctor diagnosed me with cystic fibrosis, a lung disease that, at that time, was incurable and deadly.

Receiving such a devastating report would cause some parents to fall into a state of anxiety or great fear. But my parents had a clear revelation about God's power to heal, and they knew it was not a doctor or a diagnosis that had the final say in my destiny on earth. They recognized the enemy's role in trying to snuff out my life and stood their ground in defending my body against the spirit of infirmity that was trying to take me out. Instead of repeating the diagnosis, they put on their "It's not over till I win" mentality and began to pray. That was the only thing they knew to do, especially when the doctors had issued such a devastating diagnosis.

Next, they called on other faith-filled leaders, pastors and ministers to agree with them for a miracle from God. They asked everyone to pray these words as if my life depended on them: "She will live and not die, and she will proclaim the Good News of Christ to the nations." They refused to accept the report of disease over my body, and instead, they stood on the Word of God with a certainty in God's healing power that outweighed the diagnosis. Their brazen faith remained unshaken as they aligned their words with the truth of God's Word.

Following that prayer vigil, the cough subsided and the lung congestion cleared up. After a few weeks, they took me back to the doctor, who gladly reported that symptoms of cystic fibrosis were completely gone. Of course, the doctors assumed they might return. From that day forward, however, I never had another sign of pneumonia, cystic fibrosis, asthma or any other dysfunction of my lungs. How amazing that the enemy tries to destroy us in the very place God intends to use us to impact the world!

God had a plan to turn those broken lungs into a brazen voice of hope, help and healing to nations. Soon, the weakness diagnosed as lung disease was replaced with a powerful high-pitched squeal my parents said was most obnoxious when my older brother would merely touch me or annoy me in some unforeseen way. But instead

of letting the annoying screams frustrate them, my parents saw the annoyance as a miracle in progress.

My vocal power and lung capacity eventually developed into a five-and-a-half-octave singing voice that would open doors for me to sing and speak on stages around the world with five U.S. presidents and declare God as the miracle worker in my life. And the same power that flowed through my body back then is equally available to heal today, for “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever” (Hebrews 13:8).

Prayer, the “Secret Sauce”

Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. *And pray in the Spirit* on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.

Ephesians 6:17–18, emphasis added

If you are familiar with the DC comic book universe, then you know that kryptonite is the one weakness of the otherwise-indestructible Superman. Kryptonite is composed of radioactive particles that come from Superman’s original home planet, Krypton.

Some try to paint Superman as a Christ figure, but this one weakness leaves Superman as more of a wannabe than a true Savior of the world. God has no weaknesses or limitations, nor does He know failure. He cannot lie and He always wins. The Holy Spirit who lives in you is God’s all-powerful, all-knowing and all-consuming fire.

Unlike God, Satan has weaknesses that are easily penetrated when we study his history and his kryptonite. Faith, love, joy, peace, patience, generosity, forgiveness and, yes, prayer are heaven’s currency, as well as Satan’s kryptonite—his Achilles’ heel, weak spot or chink in his armor. BOOM! There it is—the secret sauce revealed.

Prayer is to Satan what kryptonite was to Superman; it weakens his defenses against you.

Prayer that is grounded in faith and rooted in love changes things. Prayer works. Even science has proven the power of prayer, and some of the world's most prestigious schools continue to study its effects. Prayer destroys the work of the enemy against your life. It is the umbilical cord between you and God and the key to bringing the power of heaven to earth. When you add the prayer of faith to your arsenal in the workplace and in your family, you will begin to see massive transformation take place and miracles will manifest. But before we dive deep into understanding the power or fire of the Holy Spirit, it is essential to fully know the significance of spirit-to-Spirit communication or prayer.

Prayer is not some mystical incantation or prescribed mantra of religion. Instead, it is the way you build a relationship with God, share your gratitude with Him and voice your needs or concerns. At the very basic level, prayer is talking with God during your day and getting His advice on how to live. Adam and Eve had a perfect relationship with God in the Garden of Eden. They walked with God, talked with Him and perfectly managed the marketplace God had given them. He showed them how to steward the many animals, plants and trees, as well as how to multiply their harvest so they could live in complete abundance. In this perfect communion with God, they lacked nothing.

Satan cringed at the thought that mankind could have the same intimacy with God that he had been stripped of for an eternity. When Satan used his crafty wickedness against Adam and Eve to manipulate their focus, his intent was to break up the perfect union between heaven and earth. When Eve ate of the one forbidden fruit and Adam followed in her footsteps, sin entered the world, creating a canyon of separation between God and man. Prior to that separation, Adam and Eve conversed with God in total agreement, and God responded in absolute oneness and harmony.

Heaven and Earth Collide

The Old Testament books of the Bible describe how God created a process of redemption that would bridge the massive divide between heaven and earth, God and man. For centuries, the blood of sacrificed animals was used as a way to cover sin and bring humans into right relationship with God. Can you imagine if that was our practice today and our only way of reconnecting with God? Animal activists would be in an uproar. But thanks be to God, He offered an even better plan. God chose to send His Son from heaven as a perfect Lamb to be the “once and for all” sacrifice for mankind.

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life” (John 3:16 NASB). Jesus is the spotless Lamb who was sacrificed on a cross for the sins of all those who call on His name and open their hearts to the Father. But God was not just interested in forgiving our sins. He wanted to empower us to live with victory, dominion and authority over Satan in our everyday lives. And that is why He also sent us His Spirit. The Holy Spirit of God was sent to live in us and equip us with the mindset, skill sets and authority to overpower the works of the enemy.

Direct Connect

Today, one of the most effective ways to build great business or interpersonal relationships is through collaboration and open communication.

In the same way, prayer is simply communicating and collaborating with God with great transparency of heart. In an instant, you can have a direct connect with the Creator of the universe. Tapping in to God’s mainframe through prayer opens your mind and emotions to limitless possibilities, wisdom, power and potential. Praying spirit to Spirit with God should be a powerful part of your offensive strategy for success in all things.

In Luke 7:22 (MSG) Jesus said,

“Go back and tell John what you have just seen and heard:

The blind see,

The lame walk,

Lepers are cleansed,

The deaf hear,

The dead are raised,

The wretched of the earth have God’s salvation hospitality extended to them.”

Even today Jesus chooses ordinary people just like you and me as conduits for His miracles when we allow ourselves to be used by God in an extraordinary way. When Jesus’ disciples questioned the authenticity of His resurrection and whether or not they, too, could do what Jesus did, look at what He told them:

“Believe me: I am in my Father and my Father is in me. If you can’t believe that, believe what you see—these works. The person who trusts me will not only do what I’m doing but even greater things, because I, on my way to the Father, am giving you the same work to do that I’ve been doing. You can count on it. From now on, whatever you request along the lines of who I am and what I am doing, I’ll do it. That’s how the Father will be seen for who he is in the Son. I mean it. Whatever you request in this way, I’ll do.”

John 14:11–14 MSG

The Power of Agreement

Prayer is powerful, but the prayer of agreement is impenetrable. The word *agreement* means “harmony of opinion, action, or character”¹ (in other words, the absence of incompatibility). If you really want to wage war on the darkness around you in your home, the marketplace or anywhere that you see change necessary, find someone who will stand in agreement and perfect alignment with

your prayers. When times come, and they will, when you need allied forces, remember these words Jesus spoke to His disciples when He showed the keys to breaking through chains of addiction and bondage to sin: “Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth *agree about anything they ask for*, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them” (Matthew 18:19–20, emphasis added).

In this passage, Jesus was talking about how to restore people in the marketplace and how to help people break free from the things in life that hold them back from heaven’s best. He was showing His disciples that sometimes they need to team up in prayer and create an even more powerful source through the prayer of agreement. Notice verse 9 says that if two people can “*agree about anything that they ask for . . .*” (emphasis added). In other words, two people must be in perfect agreement with one another on the specific prayer request they are putting before the Lord. This means they are now approaching the throne of God in perfect alignment—they are praying for the exact same thing with unified hearts.

Too many marriages fail in this area due to discord, division, anger and misalignment in their prayers. They pray, but then their unity is broken with discord, rendering the prayer impotent. Satan loves it when Christians disagree or spouses argue. Why? Because he knows it eliminates the power of kryptonite (prayer) to stop his attacks.

Prayer Blockers

The enemy loathes the prayer of agreement. He knows his attacks are sabotaged when God’s people dwell together in unity. That is why he throws fiery arrows to divide us from those around us. Here are five of the most common prayer blockers the enemy uses to hinder our prayers.

1. Unbelief

But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.

James 1:6–8

Unbelief is a thief that steals the potency of our prayers. When we doubt God or fail to have faith in His promises, we block the power of our prayers. Stress, worry, confusion and frustration with others all prove a lack of faith.

2. Unforgiveness

“And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.”

Mark 11:25

Holding grudges against others not only separates us from that person but creates separation between us and God. Whether in marriage or at work or in any area of our lives, unforgiveness is a weapon of the enemy to keep us from having perfect access to God’s miracle-working power. This is vital. Prayer will not work without forgiveness.

3. Strife

Where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.

James 3:16 NKJV

Though most often a sign of unforgiveness, strife also hinders our prayer life. Strife is merely acting on unforgiveness and

choosing to put force behind our disappointment in others. When we allow strife to divide us from our spouse or other Christians, we partner with Satan's plan against us. The absence of strife is the key to eliminating the evil work of the enemy.

4. Disobedience

If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me.

Psalm 66:18 AMPC

If the prayer of faith is Satan's kryptonite, disobedience to God's Word is ours. When we know what to do and yet choose not to do it, we are in direct disobedience to God, and this hinders our prayers and weakens our battle plan. If we have been enlightened to God's truth and know His Word, yet consistently choose to turn our back on it, we are missing the mark of His *best* for our lives.

Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.

Isaiah 59:1–2 KJV

The word *sin* is a simple archery term used when an arrow missed the bull's-eye. Upon impact, the scout at the target would yell, "Sin!" signifying that the bull's-eye had been missed. To sin against God means we have missed the mark of obedience, and when sin becomes a habit, it turns into a foothold.

5. Idolatry

When we put anything above God, we create idols of false worship. This is a guaranteed way to block the supernatural flow of heaven's full power being unleashed on earth. Many people question whether or not God still performs miracles on earth today

simply because miracles are not as prevalent as in the days of Jesus. But instead of saying that God has changed, which He does *not* (see Hebrews 13:8), could it be that we have changed and taken on idols of worship that hinder our prayers? Could it be that we have allowed the things of this world—the technologies, accolades, hunger for fame or search for approval—to become more important than God Himself?

The first Commandment reads, “Thou shalt have no other gods before me” (Exodus 20:2 KJV). In the days of Hosea, Israel was living in complete sin, openly displaying their pagan worship through their self-indulging celebrations. Despite their claiming to be deeply religious and dedicated to temple worship, God rebuked them harshly.

“Listen to this, priests! Attention, people of Israel! Royal family—give me your ears! You’re in charge of justice around here. But what have you done? Exploited people at Mizpah, ripped them off on Tabor, victimized them at Shittim. I’m going to punish the lot of you.

“I know you, Ephraim, inside and out. Yes, Israel, I see right through you! Ephraim, you’ve played your sex-and-religion games long enough. All Israel is thoroughly polluted. They couldn’t turn to God if they wanted to. Their evil life is a bad habit. Every breath they take is a whore’s breath. They wouldn’t recognize GOD if they saw me.

“Bloated by arrogance, big as a house, they’re a public disgrace, the lot of them—Israel, Ephraim, Judah—lurching and weaving down their guilty streets. When they decide to get their lives together and go off looking for GOD once again, they’ll find it’s too late. I, GOD, will be long gone. They’ve played fast and loose with me for too long, filling the country with their bastard offspring. A plague of locusts will devastate their violated land.”

Hosea 5:1–7 MSG

God is very clear that we can have massive success, be notable figures, parade behind massive churches, build impressive buildings

and even rise to the status of a nation of global power, but if we are rich with idol worship, we will be poor with the things of God, including miracles, signs and wonders and the powerful manifestations that come as proof of the Holy Spirit's presence.

God has proven time and time again that if a nation does not turn away from idol worship and seek His face, He will shake the nation and level the playing field. He will cause systems to cease and kingdoms to fall in order to capture the heart of His people. We see this through the many plagues, pestilence, pressures, imprisonments and pilgrimages throughout the Bible. God will ultimately shake the earth before He will let the enemy conquer His people.

Prayer is our way back to God, and the key to answered prayer is to fall on our faces in humility and turn our hearts back into a whole and right relationship with God, our Father. The key to answered prayer is to fall on our faces in humility and turn our hearts back into a whole and right relationship with God, our Father. "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land" (2 Chronicles 7:14 KJV).

The Holy Spirit *in* You

Once Jesus returned to His place at the right hand of God in heaven, He sent the Holy Spirit of God not only to be with us but to live *in* us so that once again we could have perfect union with God (see John 14:15–17). Consequently, you can talk to God, walk with God, go to work with God and even take vacations with the Holy Spirit of God in every step you take.

Prayer is a dialogue that is as natural as the conversations you have with your dearest friends, family, pastor or colleagues. The Holy Spirit of God is not far off in heaven somewhere; He is in

you and with you 24/7. You do not have to be restricted by only going to a priest, pastor or earthly advisor to connect with God. Although those ministerial leaders serve great purpose in equipping us, you can walk and talk with the Creator of the universe about *anything* at any time, in any place you choose.

Prayer is the key to sabotaging the work of the enemy in your life. Prayer is your access to God, and His Holy Spirit is your portal to bringing heaven to earth. As you continue through the rest of this book, you are going to step into advanced weapons and strategies that will empower you and fully *unleash* in you the miracle-working, life-changing power of God that you now have access to through the Holy Spirit.

BOOM!—TIME TO REFLECT

You have the potential to be a human pipeline of heaven-to-earth communications. When you stand in right relationship with God, you can become a conduit of His power and limitless potential. Stop for a moment and consider if there is anything in your heart that would hinder a perfect flow of God’s miracle-working power in and through your life. What prayer blockers do you need to eliminate from your relationships, life and business?

Pray this prayer out loud:

Dear heavenly Father,

I believe that You sent Your Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for my sins and to fill the gap of separation between us. I want intimacy with You. I want to know You. I want to walk and talk with You daily. I want to know Your voice, hear Your truth and obey Your every command. Invade my heart, O God, and cleanse me even of my secret sins. I repent and turn toward You now, in Jesus’ name, Amen.