



Steve Austin

POWER PRAYERS

PRAYING GOD'S WORD FOR
BREAKTHROUGH

POWER PRAYERS

Books by Steve Austin

God Heals

Be Healed

Power Prayers

POWER PRAYERS

**PRAYING GOD'S WORD FOR
BREAKTHROUGH**

Steve Austin



Chosen

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FOREWORD

I AM SO HAPPY about Steve Austin's new book *Power Prayers* and all the ways it will transform lives. I've known Steve for twenty-five years, and I think he is brilliant! He and I do a monthly healing service together on Zoom, and I am always amazed by his deep knowledge of the Word of God, the countless people he prays for, and the many miracles he sees.

Steve's books help people gain knowledge and love for God's Word. *Power Prayers* will also help you pray effectively according to God's Word, which is one of the most important things we can do in life. When you pray the Scripture-based prayers in this book, you can have confidence and peace that God will respond mightily to your prayers. Whatever your need is, there is a prayer to cover it in this book!

I have experienced the awesome power of prayer throughout my life. When our daughter Lisa was born, the umbilical cord was wrapped around her neck, and we were told she might never walk or talk. We didn't expect that news, but we sought God and prayed, and He did a miracle and healed her. She has been a great minister and preacher for decades and is so healthy and strong. God is a miracle-working God, and He never changes!

In 1981, I was diagnosed with metastatic liver cancer and given a few weeks to live. There was no hope in the natural, but God is a supernatural God. He can do things doctors and medicine can't. We stood on God's Word, which cannot fail, every day—praying and declaring it with faith. It wasn't easy. I got down to eighty-nine pounds, and I was so weak at times. I had to fight the good fight of faith and refuse to give up. But God came through and wiped out every trace of cancer from my body. Today, I am ninety-two years old and still going strong.

If you are battling cancer or any other disease, you can be sure that God's Word says He heals us of all our diseases (Psalm 103:2–3). What a great promise! God always keeps His Word. When you pray His Word back to Him, He watches over it to perform it, and it will not return to Him void! *Power Prayers* will help you to do just that. It can save your life.

Dodie Osteen,
cofounder of Lakewood Church, author

INTRODUCTION

ARE YOU READY to supercharge your prayers and see God move in your life like never before? In this book, I am going to give you the biblical keys to praying powerful prayers that get results and provide you with 143 Scripture-based prayers covering every aspect of your life. When you pray effectively, it will change your life. You will see God respond to your prayers like never before and experience new levels of His favor, blessings, and victory.

Every time you pray, you are connecting with the God of the universe, who has all power and wisdom. When God told Moses, “I AM WHO I AM,” He was saying, “I am everything: your healer, deliverer, provider, protector, counselor, strengthener, and comforter. I am whatever you need me to be” (see Exodus 3:14). He is the source of everything you need and has the solution to every problem you face.

You are God’s child, and He has great plans for your life. He said, “I know the plans I have for you . . . plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future” (Jeremiah 29:11 NIV). These plans are birthed through prayer. God does very little on the earth without prayer, as I explain in the first chapter. As you pray the prayers in this book with faith, you can be confident

that they are hitting the mark because they are based on God's own Word—and His Word never fails!

I was inspired to write this book because the number one comment I got from my first book, *God Heals*, was people saying how much they loved the prayers. One lady translated the *Prayer for Sleep* into Spanish for her mother in Mexico who suffered from insomnia. She was instantly delivered and has slept like a baby ever since. A man gave the same prayer to his wife, who struggled with insomnia, and she also was instantly delivered. People have written to me saying that they were healed of various diseases, and they saw pain leave their bodies after praying the prayers in that book. Others asked if they could copy the prayers and give them to friends and family. People come up to me all the time at church and say, "You may not remember me, but you prayed for me a while back, and I received healing, or I got the job, or my marriage was restored."

My secret is simple: I pray the Word of God with faith and fervency. I remind God of His Word and believe to the core of my being that He will answer my prayers. I didn't always pray and have faith like this, but I have grown over the years—and you can too!

I have been a fervent prayer warrior and student of prayer for over thirty years, and I've been privileged to pray for tens of thousands of people. I have seen God do astonishing things in response to prayer—tumors vanish, people set free from addictions and other strongholds, financial miracles, wayward children and spouses turn around, broken marriages restored, and countless other miracles and breakthroughs. Prayer is an exciting, grand adventure connecting with the God of the universe and seeing Him respond.

In the first chapter, I share some insights about the importance and power of prayer and give you tips on how to pray more effectively. But the real stars of this book are the 143 Scripture-based power prayers. The prayers are divided into eight categories:

1. Relationship with God
2. Relationship with Others

3. Personal Prayers
4. Marriage and Family
5. Finances and Career
6. Healing the Body
7. Healing the Soul
8. Freedom

If you don't see a prayer for your specific need, there is a general prayer in each section that you can adapt to your situation. There are, for example, 21 prayers in the "Healing the Body" section. If you don't see a prayer for your ailment, you can use the "General Prayer for Healing" and plug your ailment into that prayer.

I encourage you to make these prayers your own. They are a great foundation based on God's Word, but since I don't know your exact situation, please add your own requests and details to them as needed. As you pray them, God may bring other verses or prayer points to your mind. Since these prayers are Scripture-based, they are also a great way to renew your mind with what God's Word says about your situation. Each prayer is followed by a list of verses used in the prayer, providing a convenient Scripture guide for each prayer topic that you can use for self-study and reflection.

You may need to stack several of these prayers and pray them often to get the victory in your situation. Prayer and faith don't always work instantly like a magic wand. We must persevere, especially with things like generational curses, soul traumas, addictions, strongholds, and serious trials. It is usually necessary to hit those repeatedly in prayer before getting the ultimate victory. I've experienced instant results many times, and I never limit God, but most of the time ultimate victory requires being intentional and persistent in prayer.

I am so excited about what God is going to do in your life and the lives of everyone for whom you pray. Get your faith and expectancy up! God is taking you from glory to glory. Armed with *Power Prayers*, you're about to see new levels of victory in your life! Let's go!

PRAYING POWER PRAYERS

IT IS NOT HYPERBOLE to say that prayer is one of the most important things we can do in life. What could be more important than connecting with the God of the universe? More thrilling than praying for yourself and others and seeing God answer in miraculous ways? More consequential than partnering with God Almighty to pray His will through on the earth? That's why the apostle Paul told us to pray without ceasing. It's also why the devil tries everything he can to hinder, distract, discourage, and disrupt our prayer life. He doesn't want us to have intimacy with God, hear from Him, or use the power of our prayers. He knows the awesome power of prayer better than most Christians do. In this chapter, I want to share some insights about the importance and power of prayer and biblical keys to praying effective prayers that get results.

The Supreme Importance of Prayer

Jesus said, "My house shall be called a house of prayer" (Matthew 21:13). He could have said many other things about His house. "My house shall be called a house of worship." That's certainly

important. “My house shall be called a house of evangelizing the lost, teaching, fellowship, service.” All of these things are vitally important. But the one thing Jesus highlighted was *prayer*. He was saying, “Of all the things you do in church, prayer is the most important because it is the foundation for everything else.” Prayer is our spiritual lifeblood as believers, and it connects us to God more than anything else. We can connect to Him through worship, His Word, His creation, and many other ways. But prayer is an ongoing dialogue with God and the primary way we have intimate fellowship with Him and involve Him in our lives. It also gives Him permission to intervene in our lives and the lives of those we pray for.

Jesus not only called the church a “house of prayer,” singling out prayer over other church activities, He demonstrated the preeminence of prayer in His own life. The verses below give us a snapshot of how devoted Jesus was to prayer:

- “He Himself often withdrew into the wilderness and prayed” (Luke 5:16).
- “Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed” (Mark 1:35).
- “And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray” (Matthew 14:23).
- “Now it came to pass in those days that He went out to the mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God” (Luke 6:12).
- “And when He had sent them away, He departed to the mountain to pray” (Mark 6:46).

We see from these verses that even though Jesus was the Son of God, He prioritized prayer as a nonnegotiable in His life. He was busier than you and I will ever be, with throngs of people

following Him everywhere, multitudes to teach and minister to every day, jealous religious leaders to contend with, and disciples to lead. Yet, He always made time to pray and connect with the Father. We are told that He prayed all night, woke up well before daylight to pray, and often withdrew to a solitary place to pray.

It begs the question: *If Jesus, who was God in the flesh, needed to pray this much, how much more do we?* Is there anything more important than connecting with the God of the universe? Like Jesus, we need to prioritize prayer and pray throughout the day, not just keep it in a morning “quiet time” box. If we can check our phones all day, surely we can pray to the God of the universe throughout the day. I’ve heard people say, “I’m too busy to pray.” I say this respectfully, but if you are too busy, distracted, tired, or whatever to pray, something needs to change. A prayerless Christian is a powerless, rudderless Christian.

The apostle Paul wrote that we should “pray without ceasing” (1 Thessalonians 5:17). Prayer is the only thing the Bible explicitly tells us to do without ceasing. Does this give us an idea of how important prayer is? Paul said we should do it nonstop. He also instructed us to “pray in the Spirit *on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests*” (Ephesians 6:18 NIV, emphasis added). In other words, pray all the time about everything. In Philippians 4:6, he added, “Don’t worry about anything; instead, *pray about everything*” (NLT, emphasis added). Prayer is our first and best resort, not a Hail Mary last resort when everything else has failed. It should be our automatic first response to everything. God doesn’t want us to just pray about the big things or when we are in trouble. He wants us to *pray about everything*. Scripture says that He has numbered the hairs on our head, so there is nothing too trivial to pray about (see Matthew 10:30). He wants to be intimately involved in every aspect of our lives.

I pray first thing every morning during my devotional time.

I pray throughout the day.

I pray on my morning walk.

I pray in the shower.

I pray in the car.

I pray before and often during meetings.

I pray at the gym.

I pray before bed.

Prayer is an integral part of my daily life.

I even pray in my sleep many times. If you do this, too, you get it. I'll be halfway sleeping and praying during the night if I feel a burden to pray for something.

I'm not telling you this to impress you, and I don't do it as a religious task. Prayer is about relationship, not religion. And I don't float around on a cloud all day praying. I have a lot of responsibilities and challenges like everyone else. But I'm here to testify that it is possible to pray without ceasing as we go about our daily tasks. As my walk with the Lord has grown deeper and more intimate over the years, I have loved having constant fellowship with Him.

I realize how much I desperately need God. I need His grace. I need His wisdom. I need His guidance. I need His strength. I need His protection. I need His anointing to do what He's called me to do. I need His help living the Christian life in this world. I need His healing for my body and soul. I need everything He has for me. I used to be prideful when I was a young attorney. I had an independent "I've got this" spirit. But as I matured, I realized that I don't want to do anything apart from Him. Why would I? He makes everything better and helps me in every way. I want Him involved in every aspect of my life all the time.

If you are married, I encourage you to pray with your spouse every day. There are many ways we connect with our spouse—mentally, emotionally, physically, recreationally—but the deepest and most meaningful way is spiritually. That's because our spirit is the deepest part of our being. When you and your spouse connect spiritually every day, you will form the deepest, most unbreakable bond. My wife and I have had a devotional time together every morning of our thirty-year marriage for at least an hour,

sometimes two to three hours on days off from work. It is not a set format. I don't believe in making our devotional time formulaic because it can become a lifeless, robotic ritual.

I believe a devotional time should be dynamic and Spirit-led. We take turns praying out loud for ourselves, other people, and many other things. We read our Bibles. We share revelations and prophetic dreams God has given us. We say Scripture declarations over ourselves and our children. We give thanks and praise to God. We do spiritual warfare. There is a lot packed into that hour. Even if we have had an argument the night before, we meet in the prayer room without fail to forgive each other, repent, and start afresh. This devotional time has been the anchor of our marriage. When life has thrown us curveballs and it's gotten rough, our time together with God every morning has helped us overcome every adversity. Through every storm, our anchor has held beyond the veil (see Hebrews 6:19).

The Awesome Power of Prayer

James 5:16 says, "The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much." Notice, it is "a righteous man," meaning one. It doesn't have to be two or three or a whole group of people. God doesn't need numbers. Just one righteous person's prayers avail much. You need to know that *your own prayers avail much*. That means they accomplish much and have tremendous power.

The next two verses say, "*Elijah was a man with a nature like ours*, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain" (James 5:17–18, emphasis added). God was very deliberate about everything He put in His Word. He wanted us to know that the great Elijah had a nature just like ours. The great heroes of the Bible were not superhuman. They had weaknesses and made mistakes just like us. Abraham lied about Sarah and slept with her maid. Moses killed an Egyptian. David committed adultery with

Bathsheba and had her husband killed. Elijah fell into depression and asked God to take his life. Peter cut off a man's ear and publicly denied Jesus three times. Paul persecuted Christians and consented to the murder of Stephen. Still, God used them tremendously, and their prayers were powerful. He wanted to convey to us in the clearest way that these heroes were just like you and me, and our prayers can be just as powerful. Don't ever allow your weaknesses, mistakes, and failures to cause you to pray insecure, weak prayers. You are a blood-bought, blood-washed child of the Most High God, and your prayers are more powerful than you can fathom.

My favorite example in the Bible of how powerful one person's prayers can be is found in Ezekiel 22:

"The people of the land have used oppressions, committed robbery, and mistreated the poor and needy; and they wrongfully oppress the stranger. *So, I sought for a man* among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one. *Therefore* I have poured out My indignation on them; I have consumed them with the fire of My wrath; and I have recompensed their deeds on their own heads," says the Lord God.

Ezekiel 22:29–31 (emphasis added)

This was God Almighty saying He sought for one person who would "stand in the gap"—meaning to pray and intercede—on behalf of the land. He didn't say He sought a prophet, an apostle, or other spiritual heavyweight. He just sought for one person who would pray. One person could have made all the difference in the entire land. That's how powerful your prayers are! Your prayers could literally make the difference in your family, workplace, city, country, even the world. But God could not find a single person who would intercede, because everybody was busy, distracted, on their phones, and consumed with their own affairs. *Therefore*, He had to pour out His judgment on the land.

Why would the God of the universe, who has all power and can do whatever He wants, seek for a man to pray? Because God chose to give man dominion in the earth realm and partner with him to bring about His will on earth. When God created man, He said four very powerful words: “*Let them have dominion*” (Genesis 1:26, emphasis added). Psalm 8:6 says, “You have made him [man] to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet.” Psalm 115:16 adds, “The heaven, even the heavens, are the LORD’s; but *the earth He has given to the children of men*” (emphasis added). So, God has given us dominion in the earth realm and partners with us to bring about His will on earth. That’s why the Bible calls us “God’s fellow workers” and “workers together with Him” (1 Corinthians 3:9; 2 Corinthians 6:1).

We are God’s partners on earth. Besides certain things He does sovereignly, God does very little on the earth without somebody praying and agreeing with His will. Watchman Nee explained this perfectly in his book *Let Us Pray*. He said that God’s will is like a powerful locomotive, but our prayers are the tracks upon which that locomotive runs.* Without our prayers, the locomotive won’t go anywhere. This is very important to understand. God may want to do something, but as we saw above in the Ezekiel 22 passage, if no one bothers to pray, it will likely not happen. That’s why it is so important that we pray about everything. Prayer is about so much more than getting our own needs met. God has chosen to work through our prayers to manifest His will on the earth. Our prayers have tremendous power to impact people, the world, and whatever the Holy Spirit prompts us to pray about.

Jesus made some audacious promises regarding the power of our prayers:

- “Ask, and it *shall* be given you” (Luke 11:9 KJV, emphasis added). I love this verse for its clear-cut simplicity. Jesus said

*Watchman Nee, *Let Us Pray* (New York: Christian Fellowship Publisher, Inc., 2014) 159.

just ask and it will be given to you. Conversely, James 4:2 says, “You do not have because you do not ask.” So, God beckons us to ask. I wonder how many blessings people have missed out on because they simply didn’t ask.

- “Whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you” (John 16:23).
- “If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you” (John 15:7).
- “Whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive” (Matthew 21:22).

These are red-letter Jesus words. Do we really believe them? Do we really expect that if we ask God for anything in faith, He will give it to us? I want to stir you up today to believe God and pray big, bold prayers. God honors big, bold prayers because big, bold prayers honor Him. He’s the God of the universe. He’s a great, big, mighty God who has all power, and you are His beloved child. He made you thousands of amazing promises in His Word, covering every aspect of your life, and all of His promises are “Yes” and “Amen” in Christ Jesus (see 2 Corinthians 1:20). I included several of them in each prayer in this book. Dare to ask and believe Him for them!

Three Keys to Praying Power Prayers

Now that we have looked at the supreme importance and awesome power of prayer, I want to walk you through three simple keys to praying power prayers that get results. Every believer has equal access to God through prayer. God doesn’t have favorites. The Bible says every believer can have boldness to enter His presence by the blood of Jesus (see Hebrews 10:19–22).

We all have equal access, but not all prayers are equal. Some prayers are effective, and some are not. James 5:16 tells us, “The

effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.” Notice it is *effective* prayers that avail much. God did not slip that word in there by accident. The word *effective* means by implication that there are also *ineffective* prayers.

Jesus’ disciples grew up in good Jewish homes where prayer was practiced, but apparently their prayers weren’t as effective as they had hoped. They approached Jesus while He was praying and said, “Lord, teach us to pray” (Luke 11:1). If the disciples were already praying effectively and getting results, they wouldn’t have needed to ask Jesus how to pray. This request alone tells us there are effective and ineffective ways to pray.

Many Christians pray ineffective prayers because they pray according to their religious tradition or their own mind instead of how the Bible teaches us to pray. The Bible gives us three essential components of effective prayers—what I call power prayers:

- 1) Based on God’s Word
- 2) Prayed with faith
- 3) Prayed with persistence

Based on God’s Word

The first key to praying power prayers is that they are *based on God’s Word*. First John 5:14–15 says, “Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.” This verse says we can have absolute confidence that when we pray according to God’s will, He not only hears us but will grant our petitions. How do we know we are praying according to God’s will? By praying His Word. His written Word spells out His will.

God’s Word is His covenant with us, and He is not bound by anything but His Word. He loves to hear our heart, but He’s not

bound by our words—He’s bound by His Word. God said, “Put Me in remembrance” (Isaiah 43:26). He didn’t say this because He has a bad memory. He likes to be reminded of His Word and have it quoted back to Him. In Jeremiah 1:12, He said, “I am watching over My word to perform it” (NASB). He’s not watching over our word to perform it; He is watching over His own Word to perform it.

If you heard me pray, the majority of my prayers consist of “Father, You said . . .” or “Your Word says . . .” Mainly, I remind God of what He promised. His words will move Him more than my words will. That’s why each prayer in this book is based entirely on God’s Word. I encourage you to pray these prayers out loud so that you release His Word into the atmosphere and get it down into your spirit.

Hebrews 4:12 says, “The word of God is *living* and *active* and *full of power*” (AMP, emphasis added). First, the Word is *living*. “All Scripture is God-breathed” (2 Timothy 3:16 NIV). He breathed the same life-giving breath that created mankind from the dust of the ground into His written Word and infused it with life and supernatural power. You can’t say that about any other written words.

Second, God’s Word is *active*. It’s not passive. It’s not neutral. When you pray or speak it over your situation, it *goes to work*. God said, “I am watching over my word to *perform it*” (Jeremiah 1:12 ESV, emphasis added). When you pray His Word, the God of the universe watches over His Word to perform it. And because it is performed by the most powerful force in the universe, it is full of supernatural, wonder-working power.

And let’s remember that Jesus Himself is the Word. “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. . . . And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:1, 14). God and His Word are one and the same. When we pray or speak His Word out loud, we are releasing God and His power into our situation!

God said, “He who has My word, let him speak My word faithfully. . . . Is not My word like a fire . . . and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?” (Jeremiah 23:28–29). God’s Word is so powerful that it’s like a fire that burns down and a hammer that breaks through every obstacle in your path. The more you pray His Word, the more you will see it go to work and bring mighty breakthroughs in your life!

Psalms 138:2 says, “You have magnified Your word above all Your name.” Why has He magnified His word above His name? Because if He didn’t keep His word, His name wouldn’t mean much. He called Himself Jehovah Rapha, the God who heals, but if He didn’t keep His word to heal, that name wouldn’t mean anything. He called Himself Jehovah Jireh, the God who provides, but if He didn’t keep His word to provide our needs, that name wouldn’t mean anything. Keeping His word is what gives meaning to each of His names, so He magnifies His word above His name.

Scripture says, “No matter how many promises God has made, they are ‘Yes’ in Christ. And so through him *the ‘Amen’ is spoken by us*” (2 Corinthians 1:20 NIV, emphasis added). When we pray God’s Word, we put our amen—our “so be it” agreement—on His promises. By agreeing with His Word, we give it permission to manifest in our life. *Pray the promises, not the problem.* Often, the way people pray does more harm than good because they just repeat the problem. Praying “complains” prayers that repeat the problem will keep you stuck where you are. The purpose of prayer is not to give God our list of complaints and tell Him how bad our situation is. He already knows. He has compassion for your situation, but what moves Him to act is *praying His Word back to Him in faith.*

Praying with Faith

The second component of power prayers is *praying with real faith*. The Bible defines faith as “the assurance (the confirmation, the title

deed) of the things [we] hope for . . . the conviction of their reality [faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses]” (Hebrews 11:1 AMPC). It is believing that we already have the title deed to the things God promised us. They are already reality and fact in the spirit realm; we are just waiting for them to manifest in the natural realm. Jesus said, “Whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you *have received it* [past tense], and it *will be* yours [future tense]” (Mark 11:24 NIV, emphasis added).

We have to believe that we already have the title deed to the things we are praying for. They already belong to us. If God said it, we believe it; that settles it. It doesn’t matter what a doctor or someone else says. It doesn’t matter what the natural facts say. It doesn’t matter how hopeless it seems. We believe God above all else. We know He’s a miracle-working, mountain-moving, Red Sea–parting, promise-keeping God, and nothing is impossible with Him! This is the kind of faith behind power prayers that gets results. Conversely, James 1:6–7 says we can’t expect to receive anything from God without faith. “Let him ask [pray] in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord.”

Faithless religious prayers won’t do. God is not impressed by religiosity or flowery eloquence. Begging or complaining prayers won’t do either. Faith alone is what moves God. It is the currency of heaven. Praying without faith is like going shopping without money. Jesus said, “Whatever things you ask in prayer, *believing*, you will receive” (Matthew 21:22, emphasis added). The operative word there is *believing*. When we pray, we must truly *believe* that God will do what we are praying for. The prayers in this book are based on God’s Word, which satisfies the first key for power prayers, but it’s up to you to add your faith to them. Hebrews 4:2 says, “The word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it.” It’s the combination of the *Word and faith* that wins the day.

Praying with Persistence

The third component of power prayers is *persistence*. Jesus taught His disciples not one but two parables about the importance of persistence in prayer—the parable of the persistent widow (see Luke 18:1–8) and the parable of the persistent friend (see Luke 11:5–8). He said, “At all times [we] ought to pray and not give up and lose heart” (Luke 18:1 AMP). So many people give up praying and believing right before their breakthrough. They start out strong, but as time goes on and they don’t see their situation changing, they slowly give up. Jesus told these parables to encourage us to persevere in prayer and never give up. It’s not enough to ask God a few times but then quit. We must be like the persistent widow and the persistent friend and keep praying as long as it takes.

God is not like a drive-thru window where we place our order at the first window and receive it a few minutes later at the second window. He has His own timetable and agenda. The need for persistence is not because God is sitting up in heaven with His arms folded waiting for us to ask Him another thousand times before He acts. No, the persistence is for us. “We also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and *perseverance*, *character*; and character, hope” (Romans 5:3–4, emphasis added). Rewind: “And perseverance, *character*.” Character is what God is after by making us persevere. He’s not cold, uncaring, indifferent, or any of the other lies the enemy or our frustrated thoughts tell us. When He promised to work all things together for our good, this is part of the “good” He meant (see Romans 8:28). He makes us press through adversity and wait for our breakthrough to build our character, spiritual muscles, and a faith that is tough and resilient, as well as to make our roots go deeper in Him. There is no other way for Him to do it. We only develop these things by pressing through adversity and waiting.

The enemy will do everything he can to discourage you from persisting in prayer because he doesn’t want you to get your

breakthrough and walk in victory. Especially if you've been praying for a while and your prayers haven't produced the results you hoped for, he will tell you, *Your prayers aren't working. God doesn't care about you. If He was going to answer you, He would have done it by now.* But I have found that God often does His best work when we don't see anything happening. He is working in the unseen realm. Faith is in the unseen realm. If we can see it, we don't need faith. Don't ever let the enemy or your own thoughts convince you that your prayers aren't doing any good. Your prayers are powerful, and if you don't give up, your breakthrough will come in God's perfect timing.

The book of Daniel gives us another reason why we must be persistent in prayer. Daniel had been fasting and praying for twenty-one days when suddenly an angel appeared to him.

"Don't be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day you began to pray for understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your request has been heard in heaven. I have come in answer to your prayer. But for twenty-one days the spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia blocked my way. Then Michael, one of the archangels, came to help me, and I left him there with the spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia."

Daniel 10:12–13 NLT

The angel told Daniel that his prayer had been heard the first day he prayed and that he had been dispatched with the answer to it. But a demonic spirit blocked him from getting to Daniel with the answer to his prayer. The archangel Michael, captain of the angel armies, joined the battle, and the angel finally got through after twenty-one days. This stunning passage peels back the veil and shows that there can be demonic interference to our prayers in the spirit realm. This angel had to do battle with a powerful demonic spirit for twenty-one days and call for backup just to get through with the answer to Daniel's prayer. What if Daniel had

given up and stopped praying during those twenty-one days? His answer may not have come. So, be persistent in prayer. Refuse to give up. Show the enemy you are more determined than he is.

If you pray throughout the day about everything and pray the Word with faith and persistence, then I guarantee you will see God move in your life like never before. You will experience levels of His blessings, favor, and victory you never imagined. So, let's go pray some power prayers!