

MAY 2010

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A Monthly Publication

A Prayer Life That Works

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Physics**

Impact Ministries

"Changing the Way the World Sees God"

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A Prayer Life that Works

By Jim Richards

Effective prayer is one of those areas of life that every believer desires but very few actually possess! As I said when I started the series *New Covenant Prayer*, one of the top questions from people who are making this journey into the finished work is, “If Jesus did it all on the cross, how do I pray?” If you’re asking this question it means you’re actually thinking, which puts you light years ahead of the general religious community!

Very few people ever really identify what they believe about the resurrection of Jesus enough to realize the possibility of contradictions in their beliefs; and even those who do very seldom harmonize their other doctrinal concepts and religious activities with those beliefs. Ironically, our belief about the resurrection of Jesus should be the basis for everything we believe and do as Christians! It’s this incongruence that causes most of our failures and struggles as believers. As God said of the Children of Israel and their struggles, *Their heart was not steadfast with Him, They were not faithful in His covenant, (they) limited the Holy One of Israel.* (Ps. 78:37, 41)

We don’t want to fall into that same trap. We want everything about our prayer life to establish our hearts with God and make us steadfast in the terms and faithfulness of the New Covenant! In the New Covenant, because of the interconnectedness of Christ and the believer, there is no concept of a faith based on what God does independently of who we are in Him! Our identity and who He is become intertwined in the fact that we are in

Christ and He is in us! That reality is the basis of qualification for every promise God has ever made to the New Covenant believer!

When Jesus taught the disciples how to pray He taught them categories that should be dealt with in our prayer life. “The Lord’s Prayer” wasn’t a prayer to simply be recited. The categories of prayer weren’t necessarily areas that had to be constantly addressed. But this was only the model for prayer, the issues that should be addressed. However, the means whereby believers would approach God with the issues wasn’t revealed until much later in Jesus’ ministry. In fact, it wasn’t until He was preparing the team for His departure that He began to address the concept of us in Him and Him in us. John 14 and beyond introduced the disciples to such radical concepts that they couldn’t have grasped them earlier in His ministry!

Then, when the apostle Paul emerged from years of revelation, personal growth, and development he introduced the body of Christ to the “in Him” realities that are the basis of New Covenant faith. This is the mystery of the New Covenant, this is the basis for all our qualification, this is the one ultimate truth that distinguishes between true New Covenant faith and religion! Paul made this the basis for understanding virtually all of his teachings about what we have in the New Covenant!

In Ephesians 1: 17-23 Paul prayed *...that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him.* As is usual with the translators, they limited the scope of their translation to 1) the current understanding of Scriptures and 2) the church’s official position. The

phrase “*revelation in the knowledge of Him*” could just as well have been translated “*revelation knowledge in Him*” or even “*in Him revelation.*” This is supported by the original text and the context of what Paul writes here and throughout the rest of his writings! Everything we need for victory in this life is discovered in the revelation of us in Him!

Then the apostle Paul prays three very specific areas for us to experience this “in Him” revelation knowledge: ... 1) *the hope of His calling*, 2) *the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints*, 3) *the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe.* First, the word hope means confident expectation. So we should have revelation about the hope or the confident expectation that becomes ours in this calling. We are never without hope. We should always confidently expect God’s promise. We don’t have to beg, plead, or bargain! Our hope is sure! But even more important is the fact that we share in His divine calling. Whatever He is called to, we are called to.

Second, we need to have revelation about the riches of His inheritance. We have all that He has. We are in Him. *As He is now so are we in this world.* He has received the Kingdom, all is ours! Every promise that God has ever made is ours now! This is better than the Old Covenant in every way. The riches of this inheritance are beyond what eyes have seen, ears have heard, or has ever even entered into the heart of man! There is no end to the riches of this inheritance! There are no limits!

Third is one of the areas that some believers tend to struggle with most! As Paul describes the power

Continued on page 6

Advanced Heart Physics II Creating Wealth October 8-10, 2010

You've heard me talk about it, now you can do it! Creating wealth without corrupting your soul, destroying your health, or abandoning your family is one of the most critical challenges we face. The key is the beliefs of the heart! If you believe any of the following statements about wealth they will come true: I have to be a workaholic. I can't be honest and be wealthy. I have to put work first. I can't have a life and success. If I do what it takes to succeed I'll lose my family!

Even more crucial to the times we face, if you believe wealth and success are dependent on the economy your beliefs are self-fulfilling prophecies of doom! More millionaires are made during difficult financial times than any other time!

Whether your goal is to double your income or just reach a place of financial stability, Advanced Heart Physics II is for you. Here are some things you will do during this life-altering weekend:

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(Huntsville attendees)

Jesus taught that the way you view money is a direct link to your life of wholeness. In fact, in the original language He said if your eye is single in the issue of money you can grasp and master the world! Whether you struggle with greed, lack, or a poverty mentality, your life is being controlled by your perspective on money. Money, marriage, and health are the top three things that will determine whether or not you pursue your goals and fulfill your destiny. Money is the number one cause of divorce. Lack of money may be the top cause of stress, leading to sickness and disease! It's easy to see the wisdom in Jesus' teaching!

This will be an interactive seminar where you won't just obtain knowledge; you'll get the keys to wisdom, the ability to apply God's Word in a practical setting while opening a new door to your future! You'll begin to see personal changes before lunch on Saturday! On Sunday your transition will have begun. By Monday you'll be on a new journey to your financial goals and dreams!

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August 1st - Registration for Huntsville attendees: \$300 per person (+\$75/spouse)

August 1st - Registration for online seminar: \$449 single or couple

For early registration a non-refundable deposit of \$100 must be received before August 1, 2010.

***** Each attendee will receive free bonus downloads valued at over \$150! *****

Check out impactministries.com and watch your emails for more details.

ObamaCare or FaithCare?

By Jim Richards

As the national battle rages about the political ramifications of ObamaCare it seems that most of the country is overlooking the most crucial aspect of health care: personal responsibility! We've become so accustomed to giving the management of our health to others we've forgotten that God's Word addresses health management in all three realms: body, soul, and spirit! Every fundamental aspect of health-care is clearly addressed in the Word of God as a personal responsibility!

If we manage our emotions (soul) and our body (diet & exercise) in a way that's consistent with God's Word we can experience the life of God that comes from following His wisdom. But it doesn't stop there; we can also experience the life that's freely given to us through the Lord Jesus. *He who has the Son has life.* (1 Jn. 5:12) That word for life means "the quality of life possessed by the one who gives it!" We have the life; we just don't know how to experience it!

Our Old Covenant concepts of faith seem to limit our perception of faith healing to getting sick and then attempting to convince God to heal us. In the New Covenant, however, we realize that faith isn't what we believe God will do, it's what we believe He has done! Faith doesn't believe His Word will come true; it believes His Word is already true. Our only concept of faith for healing is to go to the altar *AFTER* we are sick and seek healing! A more perfect application of faith would be to believe what He says and manage our life accordingly, thereby preventing that trip to the

altar for healing.

God's Word, however, gives us incredible truth for preventing sickness. He tells us how to manage our diet and emotions to avoid sickness and disease. If we believe what He said is true, our trust will bring us to life management in these areas. Managing our life according to God's wisdom doesn't make us any more loved, but it does help us avoid sickness. This isn't legalism; it's wisdom, i.e. practical application of truth!

From the pulpit to the White House our nation has become codependent. The controllers offer us what we want. They offer to do for us what we should do for ourselves and little by little we surrender our freedoms. Through greed to get something for nothing we surrender our ability to think rationally; but even worse, we surrender our sense of personal responsibility and we expect others to do for us what God told us to do for ourselves.

We must start by understanding that from the first grade to adulthood we've been inundated with a subtle, yet consistent lure into a codependent lifestyle. In codependence people depend on and expect from others what they should and could do for themselves. Since the introduction of insurance we've been lured into a false sense of security and irresponsibility of letting the experts manage our health. Just because "they" are paying for it we avert God's plan for health management and place ourselves in the hands of the "professional." (As a side note: "they" never pay for anything. We pay for everything! Neither insurance companies nor governments have ever created one dollar. They take it from people.)

On nearly every level our country has become a "buy now, pay later" nation. We live on credit which is

the reason the banks were able to bring about the destruction of our national economy. We gave them control of our future by borrowing irresponsibly. We owe them so much money that we have few real freedoms. They own us!

The same is true of the healthcare industry. We're overweight, out of shape, eat toxic food, live in stress, and pretty much violate everything God said to do to be healthy, but we have insurance. They will pay the doctors to fix us. As premiums skyrocket we forget that "they" make money by us being sick. The more we need their services the more they have to raise premiums. The more they raise premiums the more profit they make!

Because we've given away our power we've lost our freedoms. We live in a nation that only survives if we stay sick and in debt! Our economy depends on it! In ancient China the healthcare system was very different. You only paid your doctor when you were well. When you got sick, he didn't get paid until you were well again. This would insure the honesty and intent of your healthcare provider. After all, it's hard to trust the judgment of anyone who profits by my loss.

We can rage at the drug companies, the doctors, the insurance companies, and the politicians, but little will ever change. That's why it's called the world's system. It will continue to spiral out of control until it takes Earth captive and gives rise to the antichrist who will be overthrown by the return of the Lord Jesus! Until then we must know how to live in the world but not be of the world! In fact, for the days that are ahead we need, more than ever, to establish our hearts in health and prosperity!

Health management should be a spiritual commitment. Our body is

the *temple of the Holy Spirit*. (1 Cor. 6:19) The apostle Paul reminds us that our body and our life are not our own and we should manage our entire being for the glory of God! *You were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's*. 1 Cor. 6:20

The Bible teaches that we are *stewards*. In other words, having come to Jesus we died, and the life we received back isn't our own. We are to manage this life for the good of the Kingdom of God and that includes our time, our resources, and our health! We should manage our life for optimal health so we can fulfill our divine destiny.

Among the many reasons that people fail to live their dreams and reach their goals, health and energy are close to the top of the list. Many who love God will limit their Kingdom destiny by the limitations of their health, energy, and longevity! They simply won't feel well enough to live the life they desire.

I can remember the day that I realized sickness and poverty should be resisted just as vehemently as sin. After all, when Jesus died to set me free from sin He also died to free me from the curse of the law! In the end, sickness and low energy can limit my effectiveness just as much as sin.

God's Word teaches us that we've been delivered from the spiritual power of sin. We have the Spirit of life within us. We don't need to get healing; healing was given when Jesus was raised from the dead. Our codependent mindset asks, *Who will ascend into heaven for us and bring it to us?* (Deut. 30:12) But as both Moses and the apostle Paul said ... *this commandment which I command you today is not too mysterious for you, nor is it far off. It is not in heaven...but the word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it.* (Deut. 30:

11,12,14) We've become so accustomed to a codependent mentality that we can't even take hold of the free gift that we already have in Jesus. We want someone to get it for us!

Health and healing must be part of our heart belief about the resurrection of Jesus. We must know that it's in us and that we can facilitate its full manifestation in our physical body. But the key word is **facilitate**! You see, we don't need to get healed; we need to facilitate the healing that's in us. The same occurs in reverse when we get sick; we don't catch disease, we facilitate it.

First and foremost, the factors of our life, health, and prosperity are facilitated in a heart of faith - a heart that is immovable about these being ours through the finished work of Jesus. Therein is the problem. Even many who have the correct information don't believe that it's theirs. They don't see and sense themselves as having these things; they perceive themselves as needing to obtain them.

These heart issues can be based on many things: some have never been taught what we really have through the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus; some have heard and don't believe; but others struggle with condemnation which is a byproduct of guilt. When we have personal failures we tend to believe that we should be punished. That expectation of punishment can facilitate a sickness "worthy of our fault." Then there are simply those who don't see themselves as worthy of health and happiness.

Some studies indicate that life tragedies tend to occur most frequently at our time of greatest opportunity. In other words, when our life gets better than we think we deserve our heart brings us back to a place that's equal to our sense of self: the

life we deserve!

If health and healing isn't in your heart it won't matter what you eat, how much you exercise, or how often you quote Scriptures, you'll still find yourself struggling with health, energy, and sickness. To help you move toward the life of health and energy you desire, I'm making a special offer on the *Living Healthy Heart Physics®* module. Check out the ad on page 7 and start the journey to a better life of health and energy! This is a 30 day program designed to help you establish your heart in a healthy lifestyle based on the promises of God!



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that is at work in us, he says it's the same power that raised Jesus from the dead. This is what Paul was referring to in Romans 8:11 when he said, *But if (since) the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.* The first reality is that the Spirit of resurrection power is working in us right now! We should expect and experience resurrection life in our physical body.

The next aspect of this is where the challenge for many comes when he describes this power that works in us as the same power that raised Christ above all principality and power and placed them under our feet! We are no more subject to the devil than Jesus Himself is subject to the devil! This is an absolute victory! We have far more power than the devil had before he fell, much less what he has now after being stripped by the Lord Jesus.

In verse 18 Paul says all this occurs with the *eyes of your understanding being enlightened!* We know, based on all of Paul's other writings and the entire Bible, that he is referring to the heart. The heart is the seat of understanding! This is more than the gathering of intellectual facts; this is believing something in your heart to the degree that it alters your sense of self (how you see you.) It becomes your absolute (unwavering.) It becomes your reality!

New Covenant prayer starts by knowing the areas that Jesus said to address in the Model Prayer. That must be approached from a faith rooted in the fact that we are in Jesus and His resurrection power is at work in us! Then we must be sure to approach all prayer in a way that influences our heart in these "in

Him realities!" Every Scripture about prayer, the devil, spiritual warfare, and faith must fit into this framework. This is prayer based on the revelation knowledge of us in Christ and Him in us!

In *The Prayer Organizer* every prayer issue is presented to God in present tense based on the fact that it's ours now. In fact, every prayer issue is presented as an established fact based on that which has been established in Heaven by Jesus! Additionally, every prayer issue is connected to the name of God, who He is, and the essence of His character. Thirdly, everything is based on who we are in, through, and with Christ! This is a model that will persuade your heart of the truth.

The Prayer Organizer is a tool - that's all! It's something that gives you some type of model to work with. But as time goes by you can put away the tool. Your heart will become established in certain areas. You will have little need for reminders when truth becomes an ever-present reality. You know something is established in your heart when you can face that challenge and not waver. If you waver, you don't condemn yourself, you just revisit that truth.

The amount of time it takes is totally based on what you will really do. I encourage people to set prayer goals in the beginning. Discipline is a school master until grace is working in your heart. But in setting your goals don't be idealistic. Idealism always leads to failure. Set a goal you know you can keep.

Choose the time that works best for you. I like praying in the morning simply because of the impact it has on my day. I love facing the day with my heart fixed and immovable! Plus, my days are so demanding, I know that if I put it off I'll become inconsistent. But you have to determine what works for you.

Create a special space for prayer. Our mind and body work with associations. If there's an environment that you really enjoy that's conducive to contemplative thought and privacy, that may be your spot. What you'll notice is that once you have a spot, it will become very easy to pray when in that spot. But you may find it a little difficult when away from home or away from that spot!

Over the years people have always asked, "How long do you pray?" My answer is simple, "I pray till I'm finished!" That's determined by my heart. When something becomes settled in my heart, peace comes. When that peace comes I know I'm ready to face the day or the situation. Sometimes I'll pray for days about something and sometimes only seconds!

The longer you pray the more your prayer life and prayer needs will change. Today I don't pray the way I did 30 years ago, but my prayer life is more fruitful than it's ever been. To be honest, now most of my prayer life is spent in worship, meditation, and communion around the Word.

Now you know the protocol of New Covenant prayer. All that's left is the doing! People love learning more than doing. Learning is a way we deceive ourselves, it's a resistance of the heart. By ever learning we never come to the knowledge of the truth; therefore, we never really make any changes. Knowing the truth will not set you free, but putting it into practice will bring incredibly fast results!

See the special offer on page 5 for the new series, *New Covenant Prayer*. Pour over every point in this powerful series on prayer. Put each part of it into practice until your prayer life is totally transformed and your heart is established!



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It's our core values that drive our lives. Without a single conscious thought we will make life dominating decisions and never realize why. Simple! Values! Trying to manage our behavior without understanding our values is like attempting to navigate the ocean without a compass! You're never really sure where you are going.

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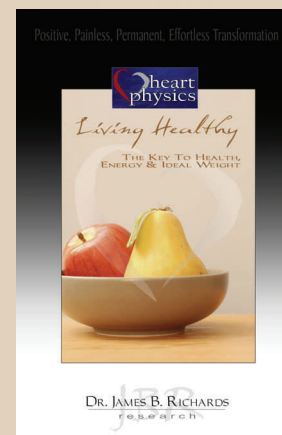
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