

Prayer Strategy: When You Don't Know What to Pray



Get your eyes
off the
problem
and on the
solution

Have you ever received a piece of news ^{2 Cor. 4:18} that just about knocked you off your feet?

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It may be that everyone else around you could see it coming, but for whatever reason, you were blindsided by the revelation. That happened to me a few years ago. It was a challenging situation to handle, and I knew I needed to pray about it. Honestly, the situation was so overwhelming and foreign to me that I didn't know where to begin.

Then I heard about the idea of prayer strategies.

While this is not a new concept, it was new to me. Basically the idea is to ask the Lord to reveal how you should pray about a difficult situation. I found the basis for this in Romans 8:26, 27.

Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

I also like Psalm 119:169.

“Let my cry come before You, O Lord; give me understanding according to Your Word.”

So I set aside some time to pray and seek the insight of the Holy Spirit as to how I could attack this situation with prayer. I wanted specific guidelines. I grabbed my journal and then I waited.



While I was praying, the Holy Spirit began to give me phrases

to pray, and many of them had to do with being set free. At the end of that time, I actually had a list of 12 things to pray about. **I ran through my list and made sure that none of the ways I was going to pray conflicted with scripture.** And they didn't. Always make sure that your prayer strategy aligns with scripture, because the Holy Spirit will not ask you to pray for things that are contrary to scripture.

Specific Scripture

Since I could see the theme of freedom in these prayer requests, I then looked up some specific scriptures dealing with freedom that I could pray into this situation. I simply turned to my concordance, looked up the word *freedom*, and read through the scriptures. I asked the Holy Spirit to quicken my heart to the ones I should pray, and then chose the ones I felt led to.

You see, praying scripture is like throwing spiritual dynamite into the situation because God tells us in Hebrews 4:12 that His word is "alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart." It is the most powerful weapon in our arsenal.

I was so relieved to go from not knowing how to pray to having a very detailed prayer strategy in place. Each day I prayed using my strategy and trusted God with the results. This is important. Let go of any pressure. The results are up to God—your job is to pray.

"How long do I keep doing this?" you might be wondering.

Well, every situation is different. Often times we don't get to see the results of our prayers. Some requests may need years of intercession; others only a short time. Basically, as

long as God still puts the request on your heart or until you see victory in the area is how long you should keep praying. God will release you from the prayer burden when it is time. I would encourage you that if you are feeling overwhelmed with a situation to ask God for a prayer strategy. **You will go from feeling helpless to being powerfully equipped to pray your way through.**

Drop me a comment or question and let me know if you use prayer strategies.

Pray on!

Jane