



Global Point Men

Remembering Our Legacy, Fulfilling Our Destiny

July/August, 2009

Praying Through Marital Problems

Every marriage is going to have times of difficulty. Problems will surface and they will be a threat to the joy and even the existence of the marriage. These problems could be due to a crisis or to ongoing problems of one or both of the spouses.

The devil will attempt to use these problems no matter how insignificant they seem. He will attempt to use these problems to cripple or even destroy the marriage. The way to prevent this is through prayer. Through prayer and dependence on God and His Word, a couple can overcome the problems that they are facing.

The following prayer list is offered as a guide that can help you pray through marital problems. You can also use this prayer list for the safeguarding

of your marriage. If you have family members or friends that are having marital problems, you can use this list as a guide to intercede for them. This is especially true of in-laws (Remember in-laws: **Hands off, prayers on**).

- ◆ Pray that God would enable them to communicate with each other in a clear and loving way (**Ephesians 4:15; Proverbs 18:13**).
- ◆ Pray that God would remind them of the value and preciousness of marriage (**Genesis 2:22; Proverbs 18:22**).
- ◆ Ask that God would enable them to find intimate and abiding joy in their love and friendship (**Ecclesiastes 9:9; Proverbs 5:18**).

- ◆ Pray that God would enable them to always be kind to each other, tenderhearted, and forgiving as God for Christ's sake has forgiven them (**Ephesians 4:32**).
- ◆ Plead that God would prevent Satan from gaining a foothold in their relationship (**Ephesians 4:25**).
- ◆ Pray that God would help them to always remember that love is a commitment and a choice (**I Corinthians 13**).
- ◆ Ask that they would always trust in the Lord and would not lean on their own understanding (**Proverbs 3:5**).
- ◆ Pray that they would acknowledge the Lord in all their ways, keeping Him as the top priority of their lives (**Proverbs 3:6**).

- ◆ Ask that they will remember that hatred stirs up strife but love covers a multitude of sins (**Proverbs 10:12**).
- ◆ Pray that they will remember the seriousness of the commitment that they have made to God and to each other (**Mark 10:5-9; Malachi 2:16-17**).

The Power Of Praying Together

A husband and wife can take numerous steps to strengthen and protect their marriage. The key ingredient in building a marriage that glorifies God is prayer. Praying together is an essential to a godly, strong marriage. It is true that both the husband and wife individually need time alone with the Lord. Both spouses separately need to develop their own quiet time. Yet, the couple needs times when they pray together. There needs to be times when the couple enters the presence of God together.

Why should a husband and wife pray together? Why should a couple

that is engaged or thinking about marriage pray together?

- ◆ *Praying together can increase the love and intimacy of a couple.* Prayer will draw a person into a more intimate relationship with God. When a couple prays together, they will be drawn closer to God. Yet, at the same time, God will deepen their love and intimacy for each other. God will mold their hearts into one heart.
- ◆ *Praying together can enable a couple to work through problems.* As a couple prays together, God will work in their lives. By praying, the couple is opening up their relationship to God. He works through this to bring about change and healing in the relationship. It is difficult, if not impossible, to pray with and for someone with whom you are having problems. When a couple prays together, it is an opportunity for the power of God to flow into their lives. This power can help them overcome whatever problems they are having inside and outside of the marriage.

- ◆ *Praying together can make a couple sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading.* When a believer prays, it makes him or her more sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit. The same is true for a couple when they seek God together. As they pray together, they become more sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading concerning their marriage and the decisions that they need to make. The Holy Spirit will also mold and shape their desires to conform to God's will. By doing this, the couple can experience greater harmony in their decisions and purposes.
- ◆ *Praying together can enable the couple to follow God's commands in Ephesians 5.* In this chapter, the wife is commanded to submit to the husband. The husband then is commanded to love his wife as Christ loves the church. These are strenuous commands for married believers. These commands go against the grain of modern thinking and worldly feeling. Yet, a crucial step in obeying these commands is

by praying together. As the couple prays together, they become more sensitive to the needs of the other. These commands go from being a duty to a delight. The couple also receives God's power and encouragement. This can help them live out the commands that God has given to them.

- ◆ *Praying together can provide spiritual protection for the family.* When a couple prays together, it will provide a spiritual covering over the family. The couple will be more sensitive to the attacks of the enemy. As they pray together, the couple receives greater discernment. This discernment is crucial in detecting and defeating the enemy.

If you are married, I would ask you to consider praying together. If you are engaged or thinking about getting married, you need to consider praying together. There is incredible power in a couple praying together. You might even consider praying that couples in your church would start praying together.

You need to establish your own time and place for doing this. If you can only do this once a week, that is a good place to start. Yet, strive to increase the times that you pray together. If you feel that you don't have the time to do this, 3 ask God to help you find the time. He is the God of time; He can help you find the time to do this.

Before you pray together, you might consider reading the Word together. You can share and discuss the insights that the Holy Spirit provides you from your reading of the Word. You might consider developing a prayer request from this insight. Experiment and see what works best for you.

You might also consider developing a Power of Praying Together journal. There are a variety of journals on the market today. You can purchase a journal that fits your tastes and preferences. It could even be a ruled wire notebook. This journal is intended for your wife and you. . You can use it or adapt it according to your needs. This journal will give you the opportunity to look back and see how God has

worked in your family and your marriage. It can also strengthen the faith of your family in the years to come. It can give you the opportunity to share with your family how He heard and answered you in their behalf and in the behalf of the whole family. Your prayer journal can become a testimony to your family of the faithfulness and goodness of God.

I'd like to suggest the following as a way to set up the journal. These are just suggestions to help you get started. You can use or adapt these suggestions. The first section is *Prayer Concerns or Requests*. In this section, you have the opportunity to list the burdens or the concerns that you have. As you share with each other, determine what concerns or requests that you will pray over.

The second section is *Scriptures and Promises*. This section allows you the opportunity to record Scriptures and promises that stand out from your Bible reading. At the same time, they may correspond to your prayer concerns or requests. From these Scriptures and

requests, you can develop your prayer arguments that you will plead as a couple before the Lord.

The final section is *Insights and Guidance From the Holy Spirit*. This section allows you the opportunity to record the insights that the Holy Spirit grants you as you pray and read the Word of God. This will help you determine what steps to take in dealing with the problems or concerns. This section will help you keep a record of God's direction in your lives.

The final section is *Answered Prayer*. In this section, you can record God's answers to your prayers. This is the place where you can write down how God responded to your prayers. There's no need to pray if you're not going to expect an answer from our heavenly Father. This section of your journal will enable you to keep a record of how God worked and provided in responses to your pleas. What a powerful testimony to hand your children one day a journal that shows how God heard and blessed all of you in response to your prayers.

Praying For Your Child's Obedience

God desires obedience from those who have surrendered their lives to Him. He desires obedience more than religious ritual (**I Samuel 15:22-23**).

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Because of this, you need to pray that God would create a spirit of obedience in your child. You should plead with God to give your child a heart for hearing and obeying the Word of God. You can train your child and live as an example before him or her. However, only God can create a heart for obedience in your child. This is why you must call on Him to do this. If you want your child to please God and to walk with Him, pray that he or she will hear and obey Him.

Not only will obedience please the Lord, it will also protect your child. God's commands have been given to protect people from destroying themselves. God's commands do not take away the enjoyment of life. Actually, they enable a person to live an abundant life that pleases God and that gives the greatest joy. Obedience to

God causes a person to experience the best God has to offer.

The following are prayer requests that you can pray for your children. These requests are based on the Word of God. They can help you pray for a spirit of obedience in your child. You can use these or develop your own requests from these. In order to use these requests, place your child's name in the blank and plead the Scriptures that are given.

Father, I plead that _____ will love You with all his/her heart, soul, and mind (**Matthew 22:37**).

Lord God, I pray that You will be the top priority of _____'s life. Deliver _____ from placing

anything or anybody before You in his/her life (**Exodus 20:3**).

Father, I ask that _____ will understand who You are. Grant _____ an intimate knowledge of You from Your Word. I pray that

_____ will have a true knowledge of Your character and will not develop false ideas about You or Your ways (**Exodus 20:4**).

I pray that _____ will never take Your name in vain. I ask that _____ will treat Your name with reverence and honor. Enable _____ to live a life worthy of Your name (**Exodus 20:7**).

Father, I plead that _____ will honor the Lord's Day. I ask that _____ will worship you and focus on You during the Lord's Day. Cause him/her to make this a special day throughout his/her life (**Exodus 20:8-11**).

Father, I plead that _____ will always love his/her neighbor as himself/herself. Deliver _____ from self-centeredness (**Matthew 22:39**).

Lord God, I pray that _____ will honor his/her father and mother all the days of his/her life. Enable

_____ to obey his/her parents in the Lord (**Exodus 20:12; Ephesians 6:1-3**).

Father, I ask that _____ would never commit murder. Grant that _____ will not allow anger

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to be a part of his/her character. Deliver him/her from speaking harsh and spiteful words (**Exodus 20:13**).

Lord, I pray that _____ would not commit adultery. I ask that You would enable _____ to think pure thoughts about members of the opposite sex. Deliver him/her from pornography, masturbation, and pre-marital sex. Create within him/her a longing for sexual purity (**Exodus 20:14**).

Father, I plead that _____ would not steal throughout his/her life. Create within him/her a heart for work. I pray that You would instill in him/her a desire to work for You and not for men (**Exodus 20:15**).

Lord God, I pray that _____ would not bear false witness. I plead that You would deliver _____ from lying. Create in his/her heart a longing for truth and integrity. Enable _____ to be a person who speaks the truth in love (**Exodus 20:16**).

Father, I plead that _____ would not covet. Create a spirit of contentment in him/her. Cause him/her to trust in You and Your provision in his or her life. I pray that _____ would look more to the Giver than the gifts that You give (**Exodus 20:17**).

World Prayer Guide

September

- 1-Poland-The Lost
- 2-Portugal
- 3-Puerto Rico
- 4-Qatar
- 5-Reunion

- 6-Romania-The Church
- 7-Romania-The Lost
- 8-Russia-The Church
- 9-Russia-The Lost
- 10-Russia-Mission Efforts
- 11-Russia-Freedom and Peace
- 12-Russia-Spiritual Awakening
- 13-Rwanda
- 14-Western Sahara
- 15-Samoa
- 16-San Marino
- 17-Sao Tome
- 18-Principe
- 19-Saudi Arabia-The Church
- 20-Saudi Arabia-Open Doors
- 21-Saudi Arabia-Persecution
- 22-Senegal
- 23-Seychelles
- 24-Sierra Leone
- 25-Singapore
- 26-Slovenia
- 27-Solomon Islands
- 28-Somalia
- 29-South Africa-The Church
- 30-South Africa-The Lost

October

- 1-South Africa-Political Future
- 2-Spain-The Church

- 3-Spain-The Lost
- 4-Sri Lanka
- 5-St. Helena and Ascension Island
- 6-St. Kittis and Nevis

- 7-St. Lucia
- 8-St. Pierre and Miquelon
- 9-St. Vincent
- 10-Sudan-The Church
- 11-Sudan-Persecuted Believers
- 12-Suriname
- 13-Svalbard
- 14-Swaziland
- 15-Sweden
- 16-Switzerland
- 17-Syria
- 18-Tajikstan
- 19-Tanzania-The Church
- 20-Tanzania-The Lost
- 21-Thailand-The Church
- 22-Thailand-The Lost
- 23-Togo
- 24-Tokelau Island
- 25-Tonga
- 26-Trinidad and Tobago
- 27-Tunisia
- 28-Turkey-The Church
- 29-Turkey-The Lost
- 30-Turkey-Mission Efforts

31-Turkmenistan

Leading Your Family God's Way

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I Timothy was written by the apostle Paul to a young pastor named Timothy. Paul finds himself at the end of his ministry. Timothy is just starting his. The Holy Spirit inspired Paul to write this letter to teach this young man how to lead the church of God, "But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth" (**I Timothy 3:15**).

This veteran, embattled pastor sent Timothy a letter to give him guidance on how to lead the church. Since the home is a little church, you are the "pastor" of your home. You are responsible for the spiritual well-being and direction of your home. For that reason, **I Timothy** can give you direction on how to lead your family spiritual.

In the upcoming issues of the Global Point Man newsletter, we will examine the book of **I Timothy**. This book can provide you with insights on how to pastor your home. It can enable you to provide the spiritual leadership and direction that your family needs.

In **I Timothy 1:1-3**, the apostle Paul emphasized the priority of sound doctrine. He begins by asserting his authority. Paul was not a self-appointed apostle nor did any church commission him. He was an apostle of Jesus Christ “by the commandment of God our Savior, and Lord Jesus Christ, which is our hope” (1:1).

Paul refers to Timothy as “my own son in the faith” (1:2). This reveals that Timothy had true faith in Jesus Christ. The important thing about him was not that he was Paul’s child, but God’s child. He had trusted in Christ and experienced the salvation of Jesus Christ.

The first thing Paul tells his true son in the faith is that he must teach sound doctrine (1:3). The apostle emphasizes that he must focus on teaching and preaching the Word of

God. The truth of God’s Word had been committed to him. He now was to proclaim and defend that truth to others.

What do we learn about pastoring our families from this text?

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- ✓ *You must have a personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Before you can lead your family in the faith, you must have personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. First, you must know Christ. You must place your faith in Him, surrendering yourself solely to Him. This is essential to your spiritual leadership of your home. You can’t lead your family in a way that you yourself have not gone. Leading your family to Christ starts with your personal relationship to Jesus Christ.*
- ✓ *You must strive to understand the truths of God’s Word. To teach sound doctrine you have to develop your own understanding. This begins with your personal reading and study of God’s Word. You can build on this through Bible study groups, hearing the preaching of God’s Word, and reading sound doctrinal works.*

- ✓ *You are to pass on the faith to your children.* God desires that you pass on the faith that was committed to you (**Jude 3**). Your children will face a variety of false teachings and ideologies. You must provide the foundation of sound doctrine.
- ✓ *Strive to live the truth.* It is important to know and teach the truth. Yet, you will have greater effect as you labor to put the truth into practice. We must believe, teach, and live sound doctrine if it is to have deep affect on our families.
- ✓ *Ask God to grant you the power and wisdom to pastor your family.* God has called you to pastor your family. Only through God's help can you fulfill this calling. Seek Him for the help that you need; He is more than willing to help you. As you seek Him, He will provide you what you need to lead your family in the faith.

Praying Psalm 121 For Your Family

Read and meditate on **Psalm 121**.
Ask the Spirit to grant you the power to pray this psalm for your family.

Consider these requests as you pray for you family.

- (1) Father, teach this family where to run for help (**121:1-2**);
- (2) Father, grant us the help that You alone can give for our problems and our stress (**121:1-2**);
- (3) Father, grant us the strength to stand firm in You and Your Word; preserve us from falling into the traps of the enemy (**121:3**);
- (4) Father, thank You for Your continual care for our lives; continue to watch over us and grant us peace (**121:4**);

(5) Father, You are our Helper; teach us to take refuge in you (**121:5**);

(6) Father, preserve us from all evil; sustain us and use all things to shape and mold our lives (**121:6-7**)

(7) Father, watch over our lives and protect as we go and come in our daily lives (**121:8**).

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