



## Following the Call of God

June 2014



Let us be clear. Prayer is no kindergarten exercise for the faint of heart. Prayer is an encounter with the power of God, and with God Himself; this God we serve is no tame or doting celestial grandfather who projects benevolence on all who deign to speak with Him. Rather this is an almighty Sovereign who has an agenda to save the world. He is magnificent love and severe holiness at the same time. His agenda is to overthrow evil at the very deepest root. To get us to the place in which this can be done, He will lead us into our calling. Our calling to proclaim Christ and to resist evil in all its forms may make us sweat profusely and find no comfort except in knowing that we are being and doing exactly as God commands.

The book of Hebrews tells us that this kind of praying was not only related to Jesus' prayer in Gethsemane, but was the manner that Jesus prayed all His earthly life. The writer is very bold. He indicates that Jesus' life was in fact His training ground for His ultimate sacrifice; Jesus was in training to be a priest for His Father. He was born the Son of God. He trained to be God's High Priest. This is what the writer of Hebrews was saying when he said that Jesus had some things to learn: "In the days of His flesh, He offered up both prayers and supplications with loud crying and tears to the one able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His piety. Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered.

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And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation being designated by God as a high priest” (Hebrews 5:7-10, NASB).

In Gethsemane Jesus was training His disciples in how to pray. This time they didn’t pass the test. Jesus did. To learn to endure requires time with God. Without this time with God, our resources will reach an end, and the enemy will succeed in distracting us from God’s direction.

*High Priest of Heaven, teach me how to pray! Show me how to withstand the temptations and distractions of the enemy so that I might endure, persevere and have victory over him in every area of my life. I want to proclaim You by living the prayer-filled life You demonstrated on earth. Thank You, Lord, that You have given me the power of the Holy Spirit to guide me as I step into the calling You have placed before me.*

Adapted from [Power Praying: Hearing Jesus’ Spirit by Praying Jesus’ Prayer](#) by David Chotka. This book is available at [prayershop.org](http://prayershop.org).

### Prayer Points

Praise God that he is kind and good. Give thanks for specific ways you have experienced that since the beginning of this week. Confess times when you have not been a clear and consistent image-bearer of these characteristics of your God. Commit to reflecting him with such quality that others will praise God for his kindness and goodness shown to them through you. Ask God to produce this part of his Holy Spirit’s fruit in you.

Pray that God’s people will honor him by being kind to the needy (Prov. 14:31). Ask God to use those efforts to spread his kingly influence.

-Prayer Points taken from [Patterns for Prayer](#) by Alvin VanderGriend. This book is available at [prayershop.org](http://prayershop.org).

## Why Pray God’s Purposes for Your State

Is your state important to you? Important enough for you to pray for it passionately and persistently? Our state is very important to God. God loves our state because He has a caring personal relationship with the whole state and its people. Almighty God is our states:

**Creator-Founder** - establishing the state with His vision and His purposes for it.

**Maker- Shaper** - developing the state in its identity, character and destiny from generation to generation.

**Owner-Provider** - supplying its resources and direction

**Father-Life Giver** - birthing and giving life to its people, their abilities and skills, as part of His “family business”

**Shepherd-Caretaker** - caring for the wellbeing and protection of its people and neighborhoods.

**King of His Kingdom** - ruling over and uniting its institutions and system with His guidance and just governing

**Redeemer-Reconciler** - giving His mercy and restoring grace for correcting its selfishness, foolishness and failures.

**Covenant-Commissioner** - sending His ambassadors of salvation and reconciliation into other states and cultures.

Your relationship with the state is derived from God’s relationship with the people of that state. They are the creatures of His creativity. They are the craftsmanship of His fashioning. They are the trusted managers and caretakers under His ownership. They are His children - His heirs. They are the sheep of His pastures. They are servants under His governing ruler ship. They are rescued, forgiven witnesses of His saving, redeeming work. They are praying-world changers for His global purposes.

Therefore praying is acknowledging God’s relationship with us in appreciation, and then cultivating our relationship with Him by seeking to know Him in His Personhood, and learning to follow Him in His ways and working for our state. We pray because we need Him and His presence with us, and because we want what He wants for the state. Let’s join together then to pray faithfully for our state to be a place of God’s manifest presence.