

# Prayer That Makes A Difference Part-2

I decided to continue make “Prayer That Makes A Difference” a series due to the need to establish a stronger **culture** of prayer at King’sGate this year. **Webster’s Dictionary** defines “culture” as “The set of shared attitudes, values, goals and practices that characterizes an institution or organization.” The more we understand the importance of something directly connected to the life and growth of the body of Christ and individuals in particular, the more we’ll prioritize it in our lives (hopefully). This is what creates culture that thrives & builds.

Simply put, prayer is communication with God, and because God is personal, everyone can offer prayers to Him. One word for prayer in the OT is found in **Job 42:10 NKJV**, “*And the LORD restored (SFLB marginal note: “lit. ‘turned the captivity of Job’, what was captured from Job”) Job’s losses when he prayed\* for his friends. Indeed, the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before.*” \*The Heb. word **palal** means to pray, intercede, make supplication by asking humbly & earnestly. It occurs more than 80 times in the Bible.

**The Hayford Bible Handbook** says, “*Palal* speaks of prayer as intercession, asking someone with more power and wisdom to intervene in behalf of the one praying. For example, Hannah prayed for a son (**1 Sam. 1:12**); Hezekiah prayed for an extension of his life (**Isa. 38:2-3**); & Jonah prayed from within the fish’s belly (**Jon. 2:1-9**). Furthermore, *palal* is found in the promise of **2 Chron. 7:14**, “*If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and forgive their sin and heal their land.*”

**SFLB note** on vv. 10-17 says, “Job is fully restored with God. He has shown that he serves God from a pure heart, solely because he loves Yahweh. Satan was wrong. [Job’s] restored prosperity proves that a love relationship with God secures abundant life (John 10:10). The theme of the Book of Job: God is sovereign, and His ways are past finding out.” Job was not only pure in heart, but also a man of **prayer**, who forgave his friends, who assumed they knew all the answers while Job’s faith was searching for answers. God rebuked them in 42:7-9 while vindicating Job and affirming him (“***I will accept him***”) for speaking what was right.

Even as **prayer** played a major part in Job’s restoration, prayer is to play a major part in our kingdom restoration into the image of Christ Jesus. In **Mark 11:20-26** **J.B. Phillips** reads, “*One morning as they were walking along, they noticed that the fig tree had withered away from the roots. Peter remembered it, and said, “Master, look, the fig tree that you cursed is all shriveled up!” “Have faith in God,” replied Jesus to them. “I tell you that if anyone should say to this hill, ‘Get up and throw yourself into the sea,’ and without any doubt in his heart (Aram. “to be divided (undecided) in your heart”) believe that what he says will happen, then it will happen! That is why I tell you, whatever you pray about and ask for, believe that you have received it and it will be yours. And whenever you stand praying, you must forgive any grudge that you are holding against anyone else, and your Heavenly Father will forgive you your sins.*” **1. Believe you’ve received when you pray! 2. Forgive!**

A very important aspect of our prayer life is that we deal with our doubts first. If doubt is present, get into the Bible from where our faith comes (**Rom. 10:17 AMPC** “*So faith comes by hearing [what is told], and what is heard comes by the preaching [of the*

message that came from the lips] of Christ (the Messiah Himself).").

**The Hayford Bible Handbook** cites Gen. 32:22-32 as **“The Ultimate Answer to All Prayer”**: “In boldness of faith, Jacob engages God fully (wrestles with Him, v. 28) that God would fulfill His promise to bless him and cause him to be a blessing to the families of the Earth (28:3-4; 12:1-3). The idea of wrestling with God in prayer does not mean man twists God’s arm to get Him to act, but rather, that **human passion** evidences the desire for what He has promised (Rom. 15:30 TPT “*That’s why I plead with you, because of our union with our Lord Jesus Christ, to be partners with me (Paul) in your prayers to God. My dear brothers and sisters in the faith, with the love we share in the Holy Spirit, fight alongside me in prayer.*”; Col. 4:12-13TPT “*Epaphras, who is also from Colossae, sends his loving greetings. I can tell you that he is a true servant of Christ, who always labors and intercedes for you. His prayers are filled with requests to God that you would grow and mature, standing complete and perfect in the beauty of God’s plan for your lives. Epaphras has such great zeal and passion for you and for those who are from Laodicea and from Hierapolis.*”).

God gave Jacob the ultimate answer to his prayer: **He showed His face** (Gen. 32:30), an encounter with God that so changed Jacob’s life and perspective, he could now see the face of God as he beheld Esau (33:10). To see God face in a life-transforming encounter is the goal of every prayer. God wants to reveal the knowledge of His glory, by the power of His Spirit, in the **face** of Jesus Christ (2 Cor. 4:6 TPT “*For God, Who said, “Let brilliant light shine out of darkness,” is the one Who has cascaded His light into us – the brilliant dawning light of the glorious knowledge of God as we gaze into the face of Jesus Christ.*”). It is worthy to

ask, seek, & knock, (**Luke 11:9-10**), as we persistently pursue the Father for deeper works of the Holy Spirit.”

Another quote from **The Hayford Bible Handbook: “A Prayer God Loves to Answer”** (1 Chron. 4:9-10 NKJV “Now Jabez was more honorable than his brothers, and his mother called his name Jabez [“He will cause pain”], saying “Because I bore him in pain.” **10.** And Jabez called on the God of Israel saying, “Oh, that You would bless me indeed, and enlarge my territory [border], that Your hand would be with me, and that You would keep me from evil, that I may not cause pain!” So God granted him what he requested.”).

“In the midst of extended genealogies, the Holy Spirit stops to relate the prayer of one man. Why? Because Jabez’s prayer points to the divine answer for all human difficulty, notwithstanding even years of pain and problems – clearly, a prayer God loves to answer. We may learn: **(1)** God longs to bless people who desire a life that prospers with the fullness of God – *“Oh, that You would bless “me”;* **(2)** God is ready to fulfill people with a vision for a life that extends beyond the status quo – *“and enlarge my territory”*; **(3)** God is ready to empower all who invite His works and resources of power – *“that Your hand would be with me”*; and **(4)** God will grant deliverance from physical & spiritual destruction to all who call – *“keep me from evil.”*

Final quote from **The Hayford Bible Handbook: “The Manifest Presence of Christ”** (Eph. 3:14-21). “Reformers like Calvin called Christian gatherings “coram Deo” – **“in the presence of God.”** During the Great Awakenings, Puritans spoke of revival as “the **manifest presence** of Christ.” Prayer for revival is an invitation to this – to something wonderfully beyond God’s **“essential presence”** (that is, He is **always** with us), and beyond His **“cultivated” presence** (that is, as the believer grows to know and walk with God daily). The apostle Paul **prayed** for

believers to know that order of reformation or revival that brings about an intensification of the presence and power of Jesus Christ. In this text's prayer, Paul asked that the Holy Spirit deepen His work in their lives in three ways: **(1)** that Christ would *dwell* – more literally, “*be at home*” – in their hearts by faith, that is, that He would move from being an acquaintance to being the center of their church family; **(2)** that they would grasp God’s *love* at a spiritual level, *beyond* intellectual or theological knowledge; and **(3)** that they would be filled with God’s *fullness*, that is, that the Holy Spirit would reveal the things of Christ (John 16) more fully, achieving God’s fuller work in each life – unhindered, unquenched, ungrieved.”