

Practical Steps for World Changing Prayer from: *The Hour that Changes the World*

1. PRAISE: The Act of Divine Adoration

- a. Sanctify, or set aside, a period of time specifically to praise God at the beginning of your prayer
- b. Select a specific theme for praise, such as God's righteousness, His Word, or His creative acts.
- c. Drawing on your selected theme, declare vocally all that God is.
- d. Expand your theme as much as possible. Allow God to reveal new themes for worship as your time of praise develops

2. WAITING: The Act of Soul Surrender

- a. After your moments of praise, bring your mind and spirit into a time of complete silence to the world.
- b. Think no thoughts but thoughts of God the Father, His Son Jesus, or the Holy Spirit.
- c. If words are to be voiced, let them be quiet whispering like, "I love you, Lord," or, "I long for your presence, O God."
- d. Concentrate full attention on the "love" aspect of God's character in these minutes of silence.

3. CONFESSION: The Act of Declared Admission

- a. Following your time of silent waiting, immediately ask God to search your heart for any unconfessed sin.
- b. Mentally examine your recent activities to discover possible areas of spiritual failure that need confessing.
- c. Confess any specific sins you may be guilty of, either against God or your fellow man.
- d. Confess your need for specific divine guidance and supernatural action.

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4. SCRIPTURE PRAYING: The Act of Faith Appropriation

- a. When bring Scripture into your devotional hour, ask God to use his Word to strengthen your relationship with Him, just as He use food to strengthen your body.
- b. Examine a passage from either the Gospels, the Epistles, Psalms, or Proverbs. Look carefully for specific ways to apply each verse to prayer.
- c. As you study a verse (or verses), ask yourself what petition this passage prompts you to make, or what promise this passage contains that stands directly behind a specific petition.
- d. Develop actual prayers based on the thoughts and phrases included in a verse (or verses) of Scripture and offer those prayers confidently to the Lord.

5. WATCHING: The Act of Mental Awareness

- a. Take a few moments during prayer to become spiritually alert. Watch for methods Satan may try to use to hinder your Christian walk that day. Prayerfully claim power to defeat Satan in each of these areas.
- b. Read denominational or missionary-evangelism magazines to help become alert to specific needs in God's work around the world.
- c. Prayerfully recall various international news developments that deserve special prayer.
- d. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal further spiritual facts and needs. This will aid you in praying more intelligently for those needs.

6. INTERCESSION: The Act of Earnest Appeal

- a. Carefully prepare for intercession by developing a specific plan that includes special prayer for God's work around the world.
- b. Summon a new compassion for these moments of intercession, so your praying will reach out to the lost with genuine concern.
- c. Fill your intercession with the four key scriptural claims: Ask God to give more laborers to the harvest, to open doors for these workers, to bless them with fruit as a result of their efforts, and with finances to expand their work.
- d. Always endeavor to include specific countries and their leaders during your time of intercession

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7. PETITION: The Act of Personal Supplication

- a. Begin your petition by asking the Holy Spirit to help you claim only those desires that will bring special honor to the Lord.
- b. Make a mental list of specific needs you have for that very day and offer each need to God.
- c. Enlarge a petition carefully, taking time to explain to God why you desire an answer for that request.
- d. Frequently Examine your motives for claiming a petition. Be certain they are pure in the sight of God.

8. Thanksgiving: The Act of Expressed Appreciation

- a. Begin thanksgiving by thinking about all God has given you in recent days.
- b. Use the moments of reflection as a basis for offering specific thanksgiving for spiritual, material, physical, and external blessings.
- c. Frequently thank God “in advance” for blessings you expect Him to bestow on you in the future.
- d. Thank God for a least one particular blessing you have not thanked Him for previously.

9. Singing: The Act of Melodic Worship

- a. Pause in your devotional hour to sing a specific song to the Lord
- b. Select a special theme for your song, such as praise, thanksgiving, or a favorite passage of Scripture.
- c. Ask the Holy Spirit to create an original melody in your heart so your song is truly “a new song.”
- d. Don’t hesitate to sing “songs of thanksgiving” for specific blessings or victories you believe God will give you in the days ahead.

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10. MEDITATION: The Act of Spiritual Evaluation

- a. Select a theme for your time of meditation, applying full attention to that area of spiritual thought.
- b. Allow your mind to wander within the framework of your chosen theme. Ponder all aspects of the theme carefully in reference to God.
- c. Ask questions about this theme that might lead you into an even deeper mental study of the subject.
- d. Bring Scripture into all phases of meditation. This strengthens your awareness that God's Word is the necessary foundation of all meaningful spiritual thought.

11. LISTENING: The Act of Mental Absorption

- a. In the "listening" time of prayer do not hesitate to ask God very specific questions about difficult problems or situations.
- b. Search Scripture for specific answers to your questions. God most often speaks through His Word.
- c. Mentally evaluate all circumstances that relate to a problem. Ask God to show you His plan through those circumstances.
- d. Be prepared to write down any ideas God may share concerning details of solving that problem.

12. PRAISE: The Act of Divine Magnification

- a. End your prayer with specific praise concerning God's greatness. Focus your praise on His omnipotence (power), His omniscience (knowledge), and His omnipresence (presence).
- b. With the psalmist let us "praise God because He has done it." Look back at the devotional hour and praise God for hearing each of your requests.
- c. Let your spirit "rejoice" for a few moments at the close of prayer. Repeat the universal word for praise, Hallelujah!
- d. As Martin Luther suggested, when your devotional hour concludes make your "amen" strong. Confess with authority that you believe God is trustworthy.

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