

JOHN DAVID FALLAHEE

REFLECT the
GLORY of **GOD**
in **PRAYER**



REFLECT THE GLORY OF GOD IN PRAYER

HOW TO TRANSFORM YOUR PRAYER LIFE
IN SEVEN SIMPLE STEPS

JOHN DAVID FALLAHEE

Copyright © 2019 by John David Fallahee

Book Cover by Kate Fallahee

Chapter Artwork by Olivia Fallahee

Edited by Mary Rebholz

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed or transmitted in any form or by any means, without prior written permission.

Printed in the United States of America

www.LearnLogos.com

Subject Heading: RELIGION \ CHRISTIAN LIVING \ PRAYER

Unless otherwise stated, Scripture taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

REFLECT the Glory of God in Prayer

2nd ed.

ISBN 978-1-7337265-0-4

Dedicated to praying unceasingly
for my bride Stephanie
and our children: Kate, Olivia, & David.

May our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ reflect His
glory through your consecrated life of prayer to Him.

Dedicated to my brothers and sisters in the Lord
at Brookside Baptist Church.

You are an oasis of love and encouragement,
a light to the world,
faithfully living and proclaiming God's Word,
and ever growing in loving God and loving people.

Our family is thankful to be alongside you with
Christ our Redeemer shepherding us to glory.

*Success and failure of the past is either
an idol of the present
or wisdom for the future.*

JOHN DAVID FALLAHEE

Contents

CHAPTERS

Introduction	1
Remember the Glories of God	6
Examine your Motives & Manner.....	22
Face Life with the Scriptures.....	34
Love God & Love People.....	50
Expect Suffering & Persecution.....	70
Concern Yourself with God's Kingdom.....	90
Take Every Opportunity.....	104
Final Word	113

APPENDICES

Jesus' 7 Principles of Prayer	117
The Lord's / Disciples' Prayer.....	128
The Names of God	130
12 Categories of Prayer.....	132
Prayer Journals	133
Prayer Discipleship	135
A Prayer Class	136
The Intercessors	137
People Needing Prayer.....	138

> Ground Zero

INTRODUCTION

It was the spring of 2001 during my second semester of seminary that I enrolled in a class titled *Biblical Exposition of Prayer*. I was very excited about the topic, since Dr. James Rosscup, who had recently completed a book on every prayer of the Bible, was teaching the class. One of the requirements was to pray every day, for one hour, journaling as well, for 16 straight weeks. The other students in the class were eager to pray as well. We had visions of becoming great prayer warriors like the Apostle Paul, E.M. Bounds, and George Mueller.

However, by the end of the first week, many of us were tired and frustrated. One cried out it was legalistic to force us to pray. Another said it was an impossible assignment. Most of us ran out of ideas for prayer by the middle of the week. We were humiliated by our inability to pray effectively.

It was at that moment, I realized why so many of us struggle to pray consistently. It's hard work. It requires time, thoughtfulness, and teamwork to discover, learn, and listen to the needs of others. It entails compassion and love to hear and set aside time to pray for the needs of others. It involves an effort to faithfully pray and follow up to know how to continue

in prayer. This can only be done with the help of the Holy Spirit.

At the end of the 16 weeks, we looked at each other and thanked the Lord for helping us finish the course. We desired to continue in the discipline of prayer after the class was over. Praying daily is difficult. That struggle gave birth to this book.

After that semester, I had an opportunity to preach on prayer and what I had been learning from studying all the prayers of the Bible. It was during the preparation of that sermon that the principles of *R.E.F.L.E.C.T. the Glory of God* were born.

You are probably thinking, who needs another prayer acronym, let alone one that is seven letters long! However, the approach of this book is not about formulas, methodologies, or extreme workout routines. Instead, it is about a journey through which you will grow more intimate with God. It is about being transformed into an intercessor for those in need of prayer. It is about engaging in an incredible spiritual adventure that can change lives and impact this world.

Are you ready to pray?

Let's pray!

Thank you, Father God, for the amazing opportunity at this moment to worship You! I bless You as the only All-Knowing and All-Seeing True Creator-God of the Universe. You know my thoughts from afar and hear my words before they ever reach my lips. I am but dust, weak, and frail. But You, O God, know me and my sin. You have washed me and made me clean through Your Son, My Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, through His once-for-all perfect sacrifice on Calvary.

I confess my sin and You forgive me, lift me up, and set me straight. Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path to help me face life's trials, tribulations, and triumphs. Help me to love You and love people.

I pray for those who will read this book in the future, that You will personally rescue them from sin and provide salvation and deliverance through faith in Your only begotten Son, Jesus Christ. I pray You will grow them to be steadfast and faithful in prayer, engaged as intercessors, interceding for the community around them.

May You come to my rescue in times of suffering and persecution and give me the courage and strength to endure hardship. Let me love and forgive my enemies as Your Son did on the cross praying, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do!" I pray also, for

the ones reading these words, for comfort and help in their suffering.

Help me, Father, to focus on Your kingdom. I long to see Your will done. I await the marriage of the Lamb and seeing Your Son's bride, the Church, arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright. I await the one-thousand-year reign of Your Son the Messiah, the Anointed One, Jesus Christ to rule and reign from Jerusalem with a rod of iron. I long to see Your chosen people Israel in the promised land You gave to Abraham, prospering and worshipping You in Spirit and Truth with a heart of flesh, rather than a heart of stone. Oh Father, while we wait for Your most wise plan to unfold, do not let us grow weary, but renew our youth like the eagle's.

For Your glory!
Amen.



> Step 1

REMEMBER THE GLORIES OF GOD

*Bless the LORD, O my soul;
And all that is within me,
bless His holy name!
Bless the LORD, O my soul,
And forget not all His benefits:
Who forgives all your iniquities,
Who heals all your diseases,
Who redeems your life from destruction,
Who crowns you with lovingkindness
and tender mercies,
Who satisfies your mouth with good things,
So that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.
King David (Psalm 103:1-5)*

Let us enter the throne room of God and see prayer from another perspective. Travel with me to a future time and let us reverently look into the Holy Place.

When He opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets. Then another angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel's hand. (Revelation 8:1-4)

This vision of the future was written down by John, one of the 12 apostles of Jesus Christ. On earth, terrible judgments are being released upon mankind for their sin and rebellion. Jesus describes this time as the "Great Tribulation." People are panicking and perishing, but amidst this chaos and persecution, believers are praying. They are remembering their God.

Revelation 8:1-4 provides a glimpse into the throne room of God, which is filled with the smoke of incense and the prayers of the saints. Amazing! This makes me wonder if there are days where there is less smoke of

the incense, because believers are praying less. I wonder if the angels sorrow at such prayerlessness. It certainly grieves God when His people do not seek His face nor remember Him daily.

Did you know there was an earthly counterpart to this heavenly scene? In Israel, the Jewish people had an incense offering. In Luke 1:8-11, we find Zechariah (John the Baptist's father) performing the ritual.

So it was, that while he was serving as priest before God in the order of his division, according to the custom of the priesthood, his lot fell to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord. And the whole multitude of the people was praying outside at the hour of incense. Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing on the right side of the altar of incense. (Luke 1:8-11)

This offering is reminiscent of Psalm 141:2 "Let my prayer be set forth before thee as incense..." Prayer begins with acknowledging God. This is the first crucial step in praying more effectively.

△ STEP 1 △
REMEMBER THE GLORIES OF GOD

Let me ask you a several questions:

- Do you know who God is? What He loves? What He hates? What He has done in the past? What He will do in the future? Can you recall from the Scriptures His attributes, His names, and His commandments?
- Are your prayers limited by a lack of knowledge about God? How do you praise God? Do you thank God, and if so, for what?
- Have you considered that the heights of intimate worship through prayer are linked to a deep understanding of God and His Word? Later, we will consider the prayers of Moses, David, Solomon, Daniel, and Paul who knew God and His Word intimately.

Question: So how does one remember the glories of God in prayer? How should our prayers begin?

I am convinced that as you study the Bible to know God more deeply, your prayer life will be transformed. Do you want to grow closer to God? Then begin by asking God to give you a greater passion for prayer and curiosity to know and think rightly about Him.

To help you in your journey to pray more effectively, let me introduce five individuals who wanted to grow closer to God. May these examples kindle afresh in you a deeper passion for remembering the glories of God in your prayers.

Moses

Moses knew God, worshipped God, and desired to know God more intimately.

And he said, I beseech thee, shew me thy glory.
(Exodus 33:18)

What an astonishing request. Moses was passionate about God and His glory. This is an excellent beginning to prayer. So, what did Moses see after He prayed?

And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and the fourth generation." So Moses made haste and bowed his head toward the earth, and worshiped.
(Exodus 34:6-8)

What an amazing revelation. Moses receives additional insight about God. He understands that God pardons as well as punishes sin. Moses bows low and worships in reverence.

Now keep in mind, what Moses saw and heard was incredible, and that was over 3500 years ago. A lot has taken place since then. We have the glory of God revealed through Jesus Christ. We now stand on the other side of His cross. We have more revelation that reveals the glory of God in more detail. This desire to see the glory of God is important, but it must not be for self only.

Question: Do you desire others to see and know the glory of God? Do you pray for others to know God's glory and the glory of His Son?

Paul the Apostle

Paul was an incredible theologian and evangelist. He loved God and he loved people. He desired and prayed that others would seek after the glory of God.

The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints (Ephesians 1:18)

Paul was always praying for others to see God's glory. When we pray, we must be thinking of others and not

just ourselves. When you think of someone who does not know Christ, nor understands the free grace gift of forgiveness by faith alone, do you pray that they would see the glory of God? Would you dare to pray that God the Father would send to them faithful Christians to share the Gospel? Are you praying that God would help your witness to better reflect Christ's manner of grace and truth? Would you pray that they would be open to reading the Bible?

Question: How do you keep your vision of God fresh and accurate? How do know that you are thinking correctly and accurately about God and His glory?

Solomon

Solomon, when he was younger, meditated often on the glory of God's character. When Solomon had completed building the temple for the Lord, his prayer was filled with references to the person, character and glory of God. His entire prayer is found in 2 Chronicles 6:12–42. Here are three portions from that prayer. As you are reading, notice Solomon's reflection on the glory of God.

and he said: "LORD God of Israel, *there is* no God in heaven or on earth like You, who keep *Your* covenant and mercy with Your servants who walk before You with all their hearts."
(2 Chronicles 6:14)

But will God indeed dwell with men on the earth? Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain You. How much less this temple which I have built! (2 Chronicles 6:18)

“O LORD God, do not turn away the face of Your Anointed; Remember the mercies of Your servant David.” When Solomon had finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the LORD filled the temple. And the priests could not enter the house of the LORD, because the glory of the LORD had filled the LORD’s house. When all the children of Israel saw how the fire came down, and the glory of the LORD on the temple, they bowed their faces to the ground on the pavement, and worshiped and praised the LORD, saying: “For He is good, For His mercy endures forever.”
(2 Chronicles 6:42–7:3)

Now your prayers probably won’t result in fire coming down from heaven nor be followed by the glory of God filling the church, but do you see how Solomon’s prayer reflects the glory of God? This kind of prayer is the overflow of much meditation on the glory of God.

Question: Are you able to describe the glory of God to others? Do you know your Bible well enough to explain the glory of God?

Jonathan Edwards

Jonathan Edwards was a pastor during the revivals at Northampton in 1734 and 1735. The following excerpt is from his sermon *Ruth's Resolution* preached in April 1735.

“...God is a glorious God. There is none like Him, Who is infinite in glory and excellency. He is the most high God, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders. His name is excellent in all the earth, and His glory is above the heavens. Among the gods there is none like unto Him; there is none in heaven to be compared to Him, nor are there any among the sons of the mighty that can be likened unto Him God is the fountain of all good and an inexhaustible fountain; He is an all-sufficient God, able to protect and defend and do all things for them: he is the King of glory, the Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle: a strong rock, and a high tower. There is none like the God of Jeshurun, Who rideth on the heaven and in His excellency on the sky. The eternal God is a refuge, and underneath are everlasting arms. He is a God who hath all things in his hands, and does whatsoever He pleases. He killeth and maketh alive; He bringeth down to the grave and bringeth up; He maketh poor and maketh rich. The pillars of the earth are the Lord's. God is an infinitely holy God. There is none holy as the Lord. And He is infinitely good

and merciful. Many that others worship and serve as gods, are cruel beings, spirits that seek the ruin of souls; but this is a God that delighteth in mercy; His grace is infinite, and endures forever. He is love itself, an infinite fountain and ocean of it.”

Wow! Where does such an understanding of God’s glory come from? The Scriptures. Edwards’ knowledge of God’s glory is a byproduct of much prayer, study, and meditation on the Scriptures. This is a man who has spent a lot of time studying the character and works of God.

Question: How often do you meditate on the glory of God? Do you frequently think about His magnificent works and transcendent written Word?

The Psalmist

Have you ever visited NASA’s website where they reveal the pictures and videos of various space probes? Once, I was reading about the space probe, Cassini, which studied the planet Saturn. Its mission began in October 1997 and ended by purposely crashing into the planet in September 2017. You can learn more by visiting the website and reviewing the images at <https://solarsystem.nasa.gov/missions/cassini>. When the mission was completed, the scientists high-fived one another for their mission’s accomplishments. But how many of us acknowledge the effortless work of the Creator who made everything in the universe?

The psalmist by inspiration of the Holy Spirit, having never seen Saturn, describes the heavens with a beautiful poem from his vantage point on earth.

The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork. Day unto day utters speech, And night unto night reveals knowledge. *There is no speech nor language Where their voice is not heard.* Their line has gone out through all the earth, And their words to the end of the world. In them He has set a tabernacle for the sun, Which *is* like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, *And* rejoices like a strong man to run its race. Its rising *is* from one end of heaven, And its circuit to the other end; And there is nothing hidden from its heat. (Psalm 19:1–6)

The psalmist does not end here. He moves from describing God's general revelation, His creation, to describing God's special revelation, His Scriptures.

The law of the LORD *is* perfect, converting the soul; The testimony of the LORD *is* sure, making wise the simple; The statutes of the LORD *are* right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the LORD *is* pure, enlightening the eyes; The fear of the LORD *is* clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the LORD *are* true *and* righteous altogether. More to be desired *are they* than gold, Yea, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than

honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them Your servant is warned, *And* in keeping them *there is* great reward. Who can understand *his* errors? Cleanse me from secret *faults*. Keep back Your servant also from presumptuous *sins*; Let them not have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, And I shall be innocent of great transgression. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer. (Psalm 19:7–14)

Now toward the end of the Psalm, he worships God, confesses his sin, asks for forgiveness, and desires to walk in holiness. Remembering the glories of God transforms you from the inside out. We need such a renewal of our inner spiritual life.

Remembering the glories of God is not just about keeping a list of truths, or even recalling vital facts. It is to avoid thinking incorrectly about God. I am sure you have experienced the upsetting moment when others think wrongly about you. How much more serious it is to think wrongly about the character, nature, and person of God. If people are willing to sue for great sums of money over slander of character, may we be ever so careful to think rightly about God.

Remembering the glories of God is one of the best ways to begin prayer. It honors Him as the

preeminent one and helps center your prayer on Him rather than centering the prayer on you. You may need to dig deeper in Bible study so that you have something to say to God. But this is a worthwhile endeavor that will grow you in the knowledge of our great God. I can think of no better way to begin praying than by praising and adoring our amazing God and Savior, remembering the wonderful things He has done.

PRAYER EXAMPLE

Lord, you are merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in mercy. (Psalm 103:8)

Great are You Father God. You are to be praised greatly! Your greatness is unsearchable. (Psalm 145:3)

I praise You for rescuing Noah and his family in the ark from the flood judgment and for the way You rescue sinners from eternal judgment through Jesus Christ our Ark of salvation. (1 Peter 3:18–22)

YOUR PRAYER

CHAPTER SUMMARY

Step 1 – Remember the Glories of God

- **Moses:** Desire to see the glory of God (Exodus 33:18)
- **Paul:** Desire others to see the glory of God (Ephesians 1:18)
- **Solomon:** Meditate often on the glory of God (2 Chronicles 6:13–7:3)
- **Jonathan Edwards:** Proclaim the glory of God to others (Ruth's Resolution, Ruth 1:16)
- **The Psalmist:** Confess your sin and walk in Holiness as a response to His creation and His Written Word (Psalm 19)

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Share with each other a truth or an event about God's glory from the Scriptures. You may wish to write these down and pray through them to God.
2. Describe an attribute of God that comforts you in times of difficult circumstances.
3. Pick one passage to memorize and apply this week that reflects a truth about God's glory. Be sure to share your experience with someone.

7 SIMPLE STEPS

FOR MORE

EFFECTIVE PRAYING

Remember The Glories Of God

Examine Your Motives & Manner

Face Life Through Scriptures

Love God & Love People

Expect Suffering & Persecution

Concern Yourself With God's Kingdom

Take Every Opportunity

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

In 1995, author John David Fallahee was delivered from bondage to alcohol and drugs by his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Through prayer, Scripture reading, and discipleship in the local church, John found redemption, power, and hope.

This book shares seven praying principles he has learned from studying the Word of God and walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit.



ISBN 978-1-7337265-0-4



9 781733 726504