

Believer's Voice of Prayer

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BY PASTOR TERRI COPELAND PEARSONS

A time will come, however, indeed it is already here, when the true (genuine) worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth (reality); for the Father is seeking just such people as these as His worshipers.

(John 4:23, *The Amplified Bible*)

Jesus' life, death and resurrection had one main objective and that was to regain man's access to the Father. Adam completely lost the spirit-to-spirit or heart-to-heart connection when he sinned. The literal lifeline was severed for himself and all his offspring. First the system of sacrifices was implemented, then the Law was established to provide some means of allowing the Lord to relate to mankind and vice versa. However they were only weak bridges between The Holy Almighty and death-contaminated man.

Over the course of 4,000 years, only a few had even limited insight into the Father and even fewer had a true relationship with Him. It took the life and blood of Jesus, His Son, to recover all. And recover all is exactly what He did.

When the Lord recovers something, it is always better than it was before. Jesus restored the broken covenant between God and fallible man to a covenant between God and Himself, an immortal Man, and then let us in on it! He recovered the dominion Adam had as underruler over the earth,

and seated us in heavenly places with Him (Ephesians 1-2)! Most importantly, Jesus recovered the relationship between God and man and elevated it to Father and son (or daughter).

Now, Jesus, by the Spirit says, "With full access to the Father, come boldly to the throne of grace and obtain" (Hebrews 4:16). This is more than just a warm invitation. It is to be our way of life, our way of living. Jesus said, "My Father will grant you whatever you ask in My Name" (John 16:23, *The Amplified Bible*). Take a look at every reference Paul makes to whom he is praying. It is without exception to the Father in Jesus' Name (Ephesians 1:17, 3:14; Colossians 1:2-3).

Why? The reason is basically twofold: "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father" (James 1:17, *New International Version*) and no man comes to the Father except through Jesus (John 14:6). In other words, everything, E-VE-RY-THING good comes from the Father. You must go to Him to get it, and through Jesus (or in His Name) is how you do it.

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Hearts United

The Voice of the Commander

by Pastor Terri Copeland Pearsons

These are the days of war. These are the days of judgment. If you go back and study the Old Testament, you will see that judgment only came when righteousness was in danger. In these days we can see that righteousness has been in danger. This nation was founded on righteousness because it was founded on the Word of God. Any time laws or policies are put in place that are contrary to righteousness, judgment is inevitable. That's why we must pray for those in authority daily (1 Timothy 2:1-6). We must keep ourselves in a place to hear and obey the voice of our Commander.

This is an excerpt from a word of the Lord that came through me in 1998. You can tell from this that the Lord was preparing us for things to come. He still is:

Listen, listen, listen, I say, to the voice of the Commander. These are the beginning days of the war of the Spirit. The days that I have waited for, the days that I have been in preparation for, the days that heaven has been in preparation for, and know it or not, the days that the earth has been in preparation for. In the days of war, and in the beginning times of war, everything must change—your eyes must change, your ears must change, your thoughts must change, and oh, your ways must change. Think back to the things that you have seen, think back to the things that you have heard, think back to the days that have been talked about and shown, even in television, in movies, the days of the great World War II. Think back of the days and manner in which men and women began to live their lives. Nothing mattered, nothing mattered, nothing mattered but the war that was at hand and winning it. Winning it was everything because winning it meant life, winning it meant life or death, not only for those who were fighting, but for those who could not fight for themselves. I have a Weapon, saith the Lord....that Weapon is Christ—Christ, the Anointed One, the Risen One—in you. And this is the day of the release of My Weapon, this is the day of the release of the resurrection power of Jesus, in the Church of Jesus, the Anointed One. Pay attention to the voice of your Commander. Pay attention! Pay attention! Pay attention!

Something we must realize in times of war is that the majority of communication is done in code. It is of utmost importance that the enemy not be aware of what you are doing until you've done it. What is the code of the Spirit? It is the ear and the voice of faith. There will be times when things will be said that seem no different than when they were said before, but the ear of faith hears, and the ear of faith knows. The heart of faith receives, the heart of faith obeys and takes every word that's said seriously. This is not a time for sloppiness. There is no time for carelessness because carelessness is costly.

Your faith matters in these last days. It matters in your households, it matters in your schools, it matters in your church, it matters in your city, it matters at your nation's borders, and it matters around the world. Every time a believer stands in faith and makes a declaration under the unction of the Holy Spirit with the Word of God in his or her heart, then all of heaven takes note and is dispersed to see to the fulfillment of that command.

**The Lord said that it matters what we say by faith!
Right now, by faith and with purpose pray this out loud:**

Father, in Jesus' Name, I give thanks for the United States (your nation) and its government. I hold up in prayer before You the men and women who are in positions of authority throughout this (or your) nation, from federal levels to the local, and for all those who are in authority over us in any way. I pray that the Spirit of the Lord rests upon them all.

I believe skillful and godly wisdom has entered into the heart of our president (or leader of your nation), and scriptural knowledge is pleasant to him. Discretion watches over him; understanding keeps him, and keeps him from evil men and liars. It is written in Your Word that the heart of the king is in the hand of the Lord and that You turn it whichever way You desire. I believe the heart of our leader is in Your hand and his decisions are divinely directed by You, Lord.

Father, I ask that You surround our president (or leader of your nation) with godly counsel and those who do that which is right in Your sight. I believe You cause them to be men and women of integrity who are obedient to Your will concerning Israel, the Church and the poor, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.

Your Word declares: "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord." I receive Your blessing. Father, You are our nation's refuge in times of trouble—high cost, destitution and desperation. So I declare with my mouth that Your people dwell safely in this land, and we prosper abundantly. We are more than conquerors through Christ Jesus. I give thanks to You for these United States (your nation), and the leaders You have given us now and in the future.

Father, just as we lift up our own nation, we pray for Israel. You have instructed us to pray for the peace of Jerusalem, and Your Word says they shall prosper who love her. So we pray for peace to be within her walls, and prosperity within her palaces. For my brethren and companions' sakes, I will now say, "Peace be within Jerusalem." We declare abundant blessings upon Israel, as we believe You are faithful when You said those who bless Israel will be blessed and those who curse Israel will be cursed, and that all peoples on earth will be blessed through Israel. We ask that You set more watchmen upon the walls of Jerusalem: those who will not keep silent nor hold their peace day or night, those who are Your servants, and by their prayers, put You in remembrance of Your promises until You establish Jerusalem and make her a praise in the earth. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

Now give praise and thanks to God, for He has heard our prayers! And if He heard us, then we have the answers! *BVOP*

Scriptures: 1 Timothy 2:1-3; Psalm 33:12; Proverbs 21:10-12, 21-22; Psalm 122:6-8; Genesis 12:3; Isaiah 62:6-7

Pastors George and Terri Pearsons are senior pastors of Eagle Mountain International Church on the grounds of Kenneth Copeland Ministries in Fort Worth, Texas.

Is the Father Seeking You?

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This is so much more than just heaven's system of withdrawals and deposits. It is an incomprehensible privilege and opportunity! It takes the help of the Holy Spirit to fathom the concept, even more the reality, that you and I are beckoned to "come boldly to the throne!"

I've been to Washington, D.C., several times. Each time, just landing in the city gave me such a sense that we were in a place of great power and influence. Actually being in the halls of the White House leaves no doubt that you are inside the walls where the pinnacle of political power resides. But even the great Oval Office cannot compare to the throne of the Creator! The Master! The Almighty! Light, Love and Life Himself! Just this alone, when it really dawns in your heart and mind, is enough to draw you to your prayer chair with an eager yet humble expectation.

When the eyes of your understanding are enlightened to His call for you to "Come up hither" (Revelation 4:1), the desire to worship Him—or to be with Him—is an all-consuming instinct. It can be humorously compared to the way a puppy loves to be with its loving master.

But here's something you may not have considered. John 4:23 speaks not only of those who worship the Father (like the puppy that follows its master's every move), but the Father seeks such worshipers. Most people assume that God just wants to surround Himself with people who adore Him, as if He is some kind of egomaniac. But the Greek word translated "seeks" can also be translated worship or desire. In other words, He seeks us the way we seek Him. We desire to please Him, to be with Him, to follow Him. He desires to please, to be with and to lead us. You could say He seeks a mutual relationship of love and adoration. This is the basis of a living prayer life.

But notice the two elements that bring it all together: "In Spirit and in truth." In John 17:17 Jesus said, "Thy word is truth." So, we can say "in Spirit and in the Word" and be accurate. The Spirit and the Word are the two essential elements that our mutual relationship with the Lord is founded on. The Father longs for

those who long for Him in, or by, the Spirit and the Word. That's not hard to understand.

Consider this: How did God create the universe? Genesis 1:2 (*New International Version*) tells us that "the Spirit of God was hovering..." and then "God said" and whatever He said was. There you have it, the Spirit and the Word. This is His way. Everything from the very beginning has been by the Spirit moving on what God said. There are no exceptions, so to fellowship with the Father in prayer you must know

*Everything from the
very beginning has been by the
Spirit moving on what God said.*

this. To fulfill your God-given role as a covenant son and underruler, you must understand the ways of the Spirit and become skillful in the Word of righteousness.

Throughout 30-plus years of ministry I've seen what results when one is overemphasized and the other left out. It doesn't matter if it's preaching, praying or living. People who attempt to be spiritual without the Word get "off." That means everything from silly to prideful. It's the shortest route to deception and spiritual bankruptcy. On the other hand, the Word without the leadership of the Spirit is at best dry, but will eventually become legalistic, harsh and even cruel. Since God is love, it is impossible, impossible!, to accurately interpret His Word into our lives without love. And it is the

Holy Spirit who shines the light of love into our hearts (Romans 5:5). An ongoing awareness of His role is vital.

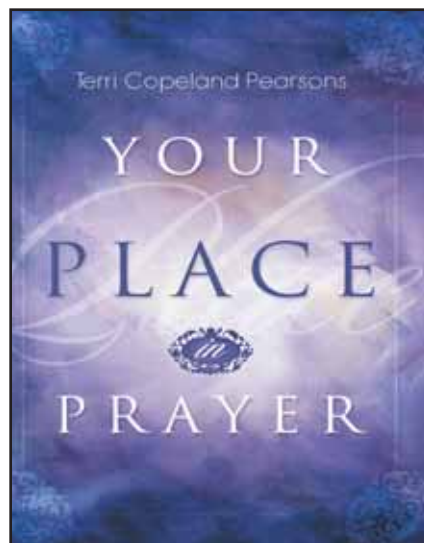
But who would really want one without the other?

How, then, do we apply this to our prayer lives? Well, none of us will ever arrive at knowing all there is to know in skillfully living by the ways of God. But we can easily understand this basic principle that applies wherever we are in our spiritual walk and can be built upon forever: There is nothing you have apart from God that will bring you close to God. Because of Jesus' redemptive sacrifice, you have been given the same means by which the Father masters circumstances and blesses humanity—the Holy Spirit and the Holy Word of the Holy One. Do not come

to Him without the Word on your lips and the leading of the Spirit in your heart. And for a certainty, don't face the devil with anything less!

If you don't know the Word, that's an easy fix. Read it! Listen to preachers preach it! Practice speaking it! If you don't know how to be led by the Spirit, ask Him! It is His ministry calling to lead you to what you need to know. He will lead you to the Word that will teach you about yielding to the Spirit. It is a never-ending thrill ride that will eternally lift you more and more fully into the presence of Him who is seeking you. *BVOP*

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The Hand of God on a Man, on a Nation, on Nations

by Pastor Terri Copeland Pearsons

In the Bible stories that tell about Daniel's life, we see two very timely keys we must pay close attention to for the hour in which we live. Two things we must do as individuals that will greatly effect our praying for our nations are: 1) to not defile ourselves, and 2) set ourselves to seek God.

We find the first key in Daniel 1:8 (*The Amplified Bible*): "Daniel determined in his heart that he would not defile himself..." And in 9:3, we are shown the second of these keys: "And I [Daniel] set my face to the Lord God to seek Him by prayer and supplications, with fasting..." (*The Amplified Bible*).

The word of the Lord that came to me some years ago will help us put all this in perspective:

If we can see the hand of God in the Scriptures, if we can see the hand of God uncovered, the way it has been in this book of Daniel, if we can see, I'm telling you, the hand of God on a man, on a nation, on nations, on men—if we can see it uncovered there, how much more can we as children of the Most High expect the hand of God to rest upon us to carry out the purposes and the plans of these last days?

We've held back and we've stood back in our own thinking and in our hearts and pictured someone else. Yes, great signs, great wonders. Yes, but through someone else. But we've seen in this that God is able.

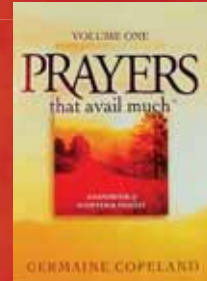
Do you think Alexander the Great was looking for God to use him? Hardly. Do you think Cyrus was? Do you think Nebuchadnezzar was? Not at all. And yet God was able to foretell and to prophesy through a man, an unborn-again man, simply because he would not defile himself. Simply because of that. He would not defile himself and he set himself to seek God. That's all. That's the only reason. That's all he had. He was not even regenerated in his spirit. And God was able to unveil and uncover things before this man's eyes. He prophesied it out and since then whole nations of the world have fallen in line with that man's prophecies and with the visions that God gave him.

How much more is God able to rest His hand upon His own children if they will not defile themselves, and set themselves to seek Him? Just those two things. Just those two things: if we will not defile ourselves, and set ourselves to seek Him. His hand will rest upon us and He will cause us to come to the place where He wants us to be. In the Spirit and in the earth. Hallelujah....

So let's commit ourselves to be undefiled and seek Him even as we see the day approaching. Then we will be in position, for He is able. The Lord will cause us to come to the place where He wants us to be, and change will take place in our nations because of His hand upon us. *BVOP*

*Daniel would not
defile himself and
he set himself
to seek God.*

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WATCHING ON THE WALL

Praying for Utterance

by Iva Bennett

As pray-ers, it is vital that we pray for utterance for the ministry gifts to which God has called us. All the ministry gifts—apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers—must have utterance. Paul understood this, and we can see from the Word that he asked for utterance quite often. In fact, he said to abound in utterance (2 Corinthians 8:7).

“Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; and for me, that *utterance* may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel” (Ephesians 6:18-19).

Before we go on, let’s look at this word *utterance*. In Strong’s Concordance, the Greek word used for *utterance* is *logos*, which means “something said (including the thought);...subject of discourse, also reasoning...or motive... the Divine Expression (i.e. Christ).”

This definition may surprise you. Why? Because when we think of utterance we think of words given when someone prophesies. We know that *logos* is the Word of God, the Bible. And we know that Jesus is the Word of God. Think about what Jesus said in John 6:63, “It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing; the words that I *speak* unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.” That’s the difference. When a minister speaks with utterance in the Holy Ghost, those words have life and are able to make alive, give light and revelation to the hearer that brings forth change.

I have heard Pastor Terri explain it this way: “Utterance is more than just the ability to tell or describe or give instruction. Words, even good words, apart from utterance are needful; however, those words without utterance are like trying to explain to someone how something tastes. You can describe it but

there is no way for them to know unless they taste it for themselves. However, when a minister has utterance in the Holy Ghost, then the words have within them a taste, thoughts and understanding. The Psalmist said, ‘O taste and see that the Lord is good’” (Psalm 34:8).

Someone can tell you how an apple tastes, but until you eat an apple there is no way for you to understand how it tastes. Once you eat an apple, not only do you taste it, but you experience all its nutritional benefits. Pastor Terri also clarifies, “Therefore, words apart from utterance just bring knowledge, but we all know we must have more than knowledge. When a minister speaks with utterance, the people not only *hear* what’s said, they also *experience* what’s said.”

In Ephesians 3:19, *The Amplified Bible* states, “[That you may really come] to know [practically, through experience for yourselves] the love of Christ, which far surpasses mere knowledge [without experience]; that you may be filled [through all your being] unto

all the fullness of God [may have the richest measure of the divine Presence, and become a body wholly filled and flooded with God Himself]!”

When words are released with Holy Ghost utterance, more than mere knowledge is released. Experience takes place. Things are altered and changed because Holy Ghost utterance is the voice of the Lord. What does the voice of the Lord do? The Prophet Isaiah tells us: “A voice of one who cries: Prepare in the wilderness the way of the Lord [clear away the obstacles]; make straight and smooth in the desert a highway for our God! Every valley shall be lifted and filled up, and every mountain and hill shall be made low; and the crooked and uneven shall be made straight and level, and the rough places a plain. And the glory (majesty and splendor) of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken it” (Isaiah 40:3-5, *The Amplified Bible*).

Look at what happens when we have

CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE

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I had the privilege of living with Kenneth Copeland's parents for a little over a year before Terri and I were married. The experience was priceless.

Vinita and A.W. Copeland (affectionately known to many as "Nonnie" and "Granddad") were precious believers. Their daily lives consistently demonstrated God's love, kindness and deep compassion.

Their kitchen table was the site of many counseling sessions. Untold hours were spent with guests and friends in need of encouragement, who always left Nonnie and Granddad's home having been lifted up by the Word and by prayer.

Granddad would laugh at the fact that Vinita rarely made it through a meal without someone from somewhere in the world calling to ask for prayer. We would gather around the table, pray over the meal and the phone would R-I-N-G! And we knew, "See you later, Nonnie."

Since the telephone was in the kitchen, I had the privilege of hearing Nonnie as she skillfully guided people through the Word. Her Bible was well worn from constant use.

One of the greatest words of wisdom she would offer, especially in times of emergency, was the phrase, "Hit it in tongues, Honey! Hit it in tongues!" I thought it to be such an unusual statement. I laughed the first time I heard it. But the more I heard her say it, the more real it became. I finally understood her reasoning.

She was stopping people from handling their situations in the realm of the senses. She would "jolt" them out of the natural and get them on over into the spirit as quickly as possible. It reminded me of when the people

"Hit It in Tongues, Honey! Hit It in Tongues!"

by Pastor George Pearsons



Photo taken 1980

Vinita "Nonnie" Copeland

told Jairus that his daughter had died. Jesus immediately turned around, interrupted their thoughts of doubt and told Jairus, "Fear not: believe only." Jesus didn't allow their unbelief to take hold—not even for a moment!

Lately, the Lord has been strongly impressing me to pray much in other tongues. Terri and I have both "stepped it up" by praying in tongues as much as we can throughout the day. You can be sure that at the first sign of doubt, uncertainty, confusion or frustration over any situation, I hear Nonnie's voice loud and clear. "Hit it in tongues, Honey! Hit it in tongues!"

Remember, 1 Corinthians 14:2 tells us that when we pray in tongues we are speaking mysteries, divine secrets, secret truths and holy plans. Verse 4 goes on to say that we are edifying ourselves, building ourselves up and strengthening ourselves. I would recommend listening to Pastor Terri's series, *A Deeper Understanding of Praying in the Spirit*. Pastor Terri grew up under the anointing of Vinita Copeland. She should know.

The next time a problem tries to rise up in your life, don't give it one moment to gain a foothold. Do exactly what Nonnie told everyone: "Hit it in tongues, Honey! Hit it in tongues!" *BVOP*

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Watching on the Wall: *Praying for Utterance*

Continued from the previous page

the voice of the Lord, which is Holy Ghost-inspired utterance. Obstacles are removed, crooked places are made straight, mountains are made low, rough places are made smooth. Isn't this exciting?

The voice of the Lord is not exclusive

to the one who stands in the pulpit. It is also for those who will give themselves over to the Lord to be used as His mouthpiece in prayer. "Therefore, as ye abound in every thing, in faith, and *utterance*, and knowledge..." (2 Corinthians 8:7).

Paul included utterance as one of the things in which we should abound.

Pray-ers play a major role in causing the ministry gifts to abound in utterance. Let's do it, precious saints. Make a determined purpose to abound in utterance! *BVOP*

Iva Bennett is the prayer ministry director at Eagle Mountain International Church.