
GETTING PAST “PRAYING THE RIGHT THING”

by Daniel A. Brown, PhD

Sometimes believers are so intimidated about “praying the right thing” that they simply pray for obvious things like protection, provision, etc. Those certainly aren’t wrong to pray for, and all of us want more of them in our lives. The problem is that those “big” and general prayers rarely find specific answers that bolster people’s faith.

Laying our hands-on people and praying extensively in the Spirit, while waiting for the Lord to nudge our understanding with scriptures, impressions, pictures and details (especially about the nature of what opposes them), these sorts of prayers penetrate in the spiritual dimension and in a person’s personal awareness. All of us as believers live within a malevolent spiritual atmosphere inhabited by forces and elements that try to thwart God’s purposes and call on our lives. Sometimes those evil-spirited agents make inroads in our mind, emotions and will. They crimp, crowd and constrain us to keep us away from God’s bounty.

Frequently, these tangled and wicked powers twist themselves so tightly in and around our own psyche that their hateful and depressing whispers sound much like our own thoughts. We hear cruel accusations and hope-draining predictions spoken with our own inner-voice. What could be worse than our own selves turning against us and foretelling our own doom? Once we conclude our ministry is headed for disaster and collapse (due to our own blunders and inadequacies, of course), we begin to entertain escape plans—ways to return to non-leadership ministry without causing too much fuss.

That’s when other people’s prayers can make a huge difference.

*[For a more detailed discussion about the forces that oppose our walk with the Lord, see the chapters entitled, “Warring Spiritually” and “Being Recovered from Evil,” in my book, *Enjoying Your Journey with God*, or download a free of *Warring Spiritually* from our web store.]*