

*WordSpeak*



# *WordSpeak*

His Word, Your Voice

Laura C. Bower



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When The Night Is Falling

Author: Dennis Jernigan

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This book is dedicated to all those who walked this journey with me. To my kids, John, Mark, Jennie, and Gracie, who each in their own way pushed, prodded, challenged, and encouraged me. To my husband, Stan, my constant north star, for all the notes and flowers of encouragement. To the “Underground Sisterhood”—Carol Gunn and Pat Perry who prayed me through the tough places. To my “WordSpeak Prayer Square”—Jackie Nace, Marlene Johnson, Jennie Bower—who let me experiment with them. To my friends Beth Hullett and Mary Ellen Buchanan who laughed with me through it. To my trusted counselor, Dr. David Knight, who taught me how to care for myself. And finally, to my father, Lester B. Collins, on whose shoulders I stand.



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## Section One

# *On Your Mark!*

## Acknowledging God's Will

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding, In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your path straight.*

—Proverbs 3:5–6





## *Introduction*

*The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.*

—James 5:16

**Y**ears ago, I stumbled upon a powerful principle of prayer that revolutionized my life. As a wife and mother of four children, I realized how powerless I was to control the people and circumstances swirling around me. Once I came to the end of my efforts and faced my helplessness to influence and protect those I truly cared for, I turned to God for help. I simply said, “There has to be more to this business of prayer. Teach me to pray.”

With that brief, heartfelt prayer, the Lord enrolled me in my own personal “prayer school” where He began to expose me to the principles in the Scriptures of effective praying. As I practiced these principles I began to see amazing results. The more answers I experienced, the more I saw other principles embedded in the Word of God.

This newfound lifestyle of prayer birthed a revolutionary tool I have chosen to call WordSpeak®, which is a focused way to pray about the concerns of life. The information found in this book plus the accompanying Scripture Prayer Cards will guide you into a more powerful way to pray. The journey chronicled in this book is a story of transformation. After a long and adventurous journey, I present this prayer tool to help those who want to influence their world.

Sadly, most of us go through life without understanding the power of prayer. I discovered that communing with God, taking His words to heart, and declaring them over my circumstances greatly enhanced the effectiveness

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of my prayers. I learned how to look for and rely on His words in Scripture to influence how I prayed. Eventually, I learned an important lesson. As long as the words of God remain on the dusty pages of a Bible, they are only literature, but once given a voice they become living and active.

God's Word has enormous power. Throughout the ages the focus of prayer may have changed, but the wisdom of God's Word has not. Spiritual laws are written down in the Scriptures and cannot be revoked. Just as the laws of nature prevail in spite of our ignorance, so do spiritual laws. Knowledge of these laws enhances our lives. The precepts, principles, and promises of the Bible are guides to help us not only manage life, but also bring into order the unmanageable aspects of our life. Our effectiveness to bring divine order into our life flows out of an understanding of spiritual laws, and an accurate handling of the word of truth (2 Tim. 2:15).

Whenever God opened His mouth and spoke, things happened. The world was created and science was installed. God's Word is as powerful today as when first spoken. The inspired Word of God brings healing and restoration when given a voice. The ancient words of the Bible can influence current affairs when they are understood, believed, incorporated into one's life, and then given a voice. What we speak is imperfect, but when we genuinely couple our voice with the words of Scripture, we produce a powerful message.

There is power in purposeful, focused prayer—power to heal the consequences of the past, impact present circumstances, and shape future events. When present circumstances do not line up with a promise from the Word of God, you pray. When you need the Holy Spirit to shape future events or character, you pray. When sins or events committed in the past have negative consequences, you pray.

The sections *On Your Mark!*, *Get Set!*, and *Go!* will lead you to a successful WordSpeak journey. The book is laced with little *Lessons* that I learned along the way. They are actually foundational truths on which to build a solid life. Don't rush past them just because they are small. Bricks are also little, but they can build a mighty strong house. The *Power Principles* at the end of each short chapter provide the mortar.

The WordSpeak Prayer Cards are prayers based on scriptures that reflect God's heart on specific matters, conveniently categorized for easy access. With the aid of the prayer cards, I am reminded to pray throughout the day over whatever concern I might have. Posted in conspicuous places around my home and office, these scripture prayer cards became a lifeline to me—little reminders of God's truths. I also found them to be faith boosters and cue

## *Introduction*

cards to speak over my stubborn problems. You can find the information on obtaining these WordSpeak products in the back of the book.

The purpose of this book is to help your voice be heard in the heavenly courts. The Bible says that if we ask anything according to the will of God, He hears us. Your voice and His Word is a powerful combination, bringing God's Word to bear on your circumstances. I pray that this book will help you make the divine connection and assist you as you live life in collaboration with His will and purposes. Your life will become a great adventure, I promise.

*If we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.  
And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask  
we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.*

—1 John 5:14b–15



## Chapter 1

# *The Prayer That Revolutionized*

*So shall My word be which goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.*

—Isaiah 55:11

Anyone with a sick child understands the helpless feeling that comes with watching that child suffer. I watched my second son, Mark, suffer physically in the first years of his life. Born with a congenital heart problem, he was frail and prone to high fevers. It seemed he was always sick. This affected his attitude toward himself. His older brother, John, was robust and athletic, and I was concerned about comparison between them as Mark entered adolescence. One day as I read the Bible, this verse about Jesus' childhood struck me. "And he grew in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and men" (Luke 2:52).

*Hmmm, I thought somewhat jealously. I want my son to grow in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and with men.*

*Hmmm, I thought somewhat jealously. I want my son to grow in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and with men.*

I also declared it over him. "You are growing in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and men." Hearing myself say this over time, I prayed with more and more confidence and my faith increased.

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One evening at a neighborhood swim meet, Mark moved up in the ranks from his usual last place to first in all of his events. When he came out of the water, lean and taut, a father marched up to him, pulled him out of the water, and said, “Son, you are a fine specimen and a great swimmer. How is it I haven’t seen you around my house? You should come over and meet my daughter.” Of course, my heart burst with pride.

Not long after, Mark gave a testimony at a youth camp reflection service. Afterward, another father introduced himself, saying, “Son, let me shake your hand. Where have boys like you been? I’d like for you to come around and meet my daughters. Take your pick because you are welcome to date either of them.”

I began to put two and two together and immediately went back to the Lord with some concern. “Okay, Lord, thank You for Your favor and the growth in my son, but maybe we should lay off the ‘favor with man’ part for a while—after all, he is only thirteen!”

You may chuckle and chalk it up to coincidence, but this prayer continued to be answered in Mark’s life. At seventeen he was chosen to serve on a leadership team with other adults from the community. His older brother (a wise young man himself) said to me about his kid brother, “Mom, he is so wise!” Now how many college-aged kids would admit that about his sibling?

Without a doubt, my son did grow in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man. Looking back, I marvel at the many doors of opportunity that opened to him specifically because of this wisdom and favor. Today Mark is a healthy, hearty, and rather stout young adult. All I did was pray God’s Word over my child and watch His Word go to work, because “All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable . . . that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work” (2 Tim. 3:16).

### **The Lesson:**

God’s Word is not confined to a particular time or place. Under the supervision of the Holy Spirit, it becomes living and active in any time and any place. “For the word of God is living and active . . .” (Heb. 4:12).

### **Power Principle:**

The basics principles that I call the ABCs of WordSpeak, took many years to test and prove. Through many circumstances I discovered the most effective praying comes when I:



## *The Prayer That Revolutionized*

Ask for God's help and favor.

**B**elieve God's Word is true and will come to pass.

**C**onfess with my mouth the truth found in God's Word.

"Easier said than done," you may say. True. Though it might not be easy to know God's will in all the circumstances of our lives, it is not impossible. God wants to reveal His will to us through a process that involves some time and effort on our part. The foundation of a WordSpeak Journey is based on an amazing promise found in Luke 11:9–10:

**A**sk, and it shall be given to you;

**S**eek, and you shall find;

**K**nock, and it shall be opened to you.

I call this the ASK process. Simply put, when you pray, you ask God to meet a need. You seek by searching the Scriptures to find His will for your particular need. As you seek His will in His Word, you get your map and marching orders, so to speak, to know how to proceed in the prayer process. The WordSpeak Scripture cards are collected and categorized by topics to help you understand God's heart on a specific matter. Once this information is obtained you proceed to the knocking stage. At this point, knowing the will of God concerning your particular circumstances can mean the difference between bloody knuckles and an opened door.

WordSpeak is an effective tool for the knocking stage of the prayer process because the Scripture cards keep His words in your line of vision and can



When we knock we are saying,  
"Open up! Let God's will come  
through!"



trying to get through to God so He would hear me and let me in, a lie that kept me frustrated and ineffective in my prayer life. He is all too willing to hear us any time we call on Him.

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In my journey, I discovered that knowing God's will and growing in faith are both tied to knowing God's Word. Because so many promises found in the Bible were news to me, I struggled to acquire a new mind-set. Could the promises of the Bible be applied to my problems? Could they come true for me? There was only one way to find out, "Be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will" (Rom. 12:2 NIV).

Although I didn't understand all the repercussions of what I had experienced that summer, I could hardly wait to find another such "word from the Lord" to use in my prayer life. I also did not realize that God was drawing me into a lifestyle of prayer that would not only affect my life but would also equip me to influence the world around me. In fact, my personal school of prayer had begun many years before. I just didn't know it . . .