

# MEMORIAL PRAYER (part 1)

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*"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts." (Isa 55:8-9 NIV)*

The ways of God are higher than the ways of men. Most times, it is difficult to comprehend the truths that God reveal in his word, and as a result, we don't practice them. That we do not understand them does not make them to be lies and unproductive. The word of God is only life to him who believes them.

Memorial prayer is one of those principles of God that we must practice to see things happen the way we expect them to happen in our lives. Those who have practiced it in the Bible have testimonies that are documented to show its effectiveness.

Memorial prayer is the act of adding giving to your prayer request. Memorial prayer is establishing your seriousness and desperation to have what you requested for through giving a valuable gift to the Lord. Memorial prayer is mixing prayer and giving to procure God's intervention and favor. Memorial prayer turns unanswered prayer to answered prayer.

## 1. Hannah's breakthrough prayer

*"And she made a vow, saying, "O LORD Almighty, if you will only look upon your servant's misery and remember me, and not forget your servant but give her a son, then I will give him to the LORD for all the days of his life, and no razor will ever be used on his head." (1 Sam 1:11 NIV)*

*"From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful men lay hold of it." (Matt 11:12 NIV)*

**Note:** - It is not that God forgets us or his promises, but wants us to remind him. In this sense, your gift stands before God as a reminder of his promise and your request to him for immediate intervention.

*"Can a woman forget her nursing child, and not have compassion on the son of her womb? Surely they may forget, yet I will not forget you. See, I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands; your walls are continually before Me." (Isa 49:15-16 NKJV)*

*"And you shall put the two stones on the shoulders of the ephod as memorial stones for the sons of Israel. So Aaron shall bear their names before the LORD on his two shoulders as a memorial." (Ex 28:11-12 NKJV)*

*"Then Moses pleaded with the LORD his God, and said: "LORD, why does Your wrath burn hot against Your people whom You have brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians speak, and say, 'He brought them out to harm them, to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from Your fierce wrath, and relent from this harm to Your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, Your servants, to whom You swore by Your own self, and said to them, 'I will multiply your*

*descendants as the stars of heaven; and all this land that I have spoken of I give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.' "So the LORD relented from the harm which He said He would do to His people." (Ex 32:11-14 NKJV)*

Hannah bargains with God, and makes a vow since prayers alone did not get the job done for years. Having married for many years without a child, she could not bear the burden of childlessness anymore; she decided to do something she had never done before that came out of her spirit. She vowed the child that God will give her to God as a servant of God all the days of his life.

*"And she made a vow, saying, "O LORD Almighty, if you will only look upon your servant's misery and remember me, and not forget your servant but give her a son, then I will give him to the LORD for all the days of his life, and no razor will ever be used on his head." (1 Sam 1:11 NIV)*

- Note the extreme value of her gift

Don't let the thought of mixing your giving and praying together disturb you. It is not unscriptural to strengthen prayer by adding something to it.

- Jesus told his disciples to add fasting to their prayer.

*"However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting." (Matt 17:21 NKJV)*

## **REVIEW OF HANNAH'S PRAYER**

*"And she made a vow, saying, "O LORD Almighty, if you will only look upon your servant's misery and remember me, and not forget your servant but give her a son, then I will give him to the LORD for all the days of his life, and no razor will ever be used on his head." (1 Sam 1:11 NIV)*

- First, she makes a vow (a strong promise)
- Second, she asks that she be no longer forgotten.
- Third, she adds giving.

## **God remembers her**

*"Then they rose early in the morning and worshiped before the LORD, and returned and came to their house at Ramah. And Elkanah knew Hannah his wife, and the LORD remembered her. So it came to pass in the process of time that Hannah conceived and bore a son, and called his name Samuel, saying, "Because I have asked for him from the LORD." (1 Sam 1:19-21 NKJV)*

*"And the LORD visited Hannah, so that she conceived and bore three sons and two daughters. Meanwhile the child Samuel grew before the LORD." (1 Sam 2:20-21 NKJV)*

## **Hannah fulfils her vow**

*“Now when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, with three bulls, one ephah of flour, and a skin of wine, and brought him to the house of the LORD in Shiloh. And the child was young. Then they slaughtered a bull, and brought the child to Eli. And she said, “O my lord! As your soul lives, my lord, I am the woman who stood by you here, praying to the LORD. For this child I prayed, and the LORD has granted me my petition which I asked of Him. Therefore I also have lent him to the LORD; as long as he lives he shall be lent to the LORD.” So they worshiped the LORD there.” (1 Sam 1:24-28 NKJV)*

*“Then Elkanah went to his house at Ramah. But the child ministered to the LORD before Eli the priest.” (1 Sam 2:11 NKJV)*

Because of her faithfulness in fulfilling her promise to give the boy to be born to the Lord, the Lord gave her five more children – three boys and two girls.

*“And the LORD was gracious to Hannah; she conceived and gave birth to three sons and two daughters. Meanwhile, the boy Samuel grew up in the presence of the LORD.” (1 Sam 2:21 NIV)*

## **2. The widow of Zarephath**

*“And it happened after a while that the brook dried up, because there had been no rain in the land. Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, “Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. See, I have commanded a widow there to provide for you.” So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, indeed a widow was there gathering sticks. And he called to her and said, “Please bring me a little water in a cup, that I may drink.” And as she was going to get it, he called to her and said, “Please bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.” So she said, “As the LORD your God lives, I do not have bread, only a handful of flour in a bin, and a little oil in a jar; and see, I am gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die.” And Elijah said to her, “Do not fear; go and do as you have said, but make me a small cake from it first, and bring it to me; and afterward make some for yourself and your son. For thus says the LORD God of Israel: ‘The bin of flour shall not be used up, nor shall the jar of oil run dry, until the day the LORD sends rain on the earth.’” “So she went away and did according to the word of Elijah; and she and he and her household ate for many days. The bin of flour was not used up, nor did the jar of oil run dry, according to the word of the LORD which He spoke by Elijah.” (1 Kings 17:7-16 NKJV)*

This widow who was at the edge of starvation because of the great famine, with the help of Elijah the man of God, adds the missing ingredient that quickly turns her unanswered prayer into a starvation breaking prayer - GIVING

- Unanswered prayer has left her with an empty barrel, and it’s hard to give the last you have.
- But she broke through the fears of uncertainty and doubts, and gave first to the man of God.

- Fear is a conduit that links your life to the kingdom of darkness; it literally turns you into a negative magnet, drawing all the torments from the devil directly into your path. The word of God says that whatever you fear becomes almost impossible to avoid.

*“For the thing I greatly feared has come upon me, and what I dreaded has happened to me.” (Job 3:25 NKJV)*

*“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.” (2 Tim 1:7 NKJV)*

Elijah’s words to the woman are straight forward. The hand of God will move to her empty barrel if she will only add giving to her prayer.

*“And Elijah said to her, "Do not fear; go and do as you have said, but make me a small cake from it first, and bring it to me; and afterward make some for yourself and your son. For thus says the LORD God of Israel: 'The bin of flour shall not be used up, nor shall the jar of oil run dry, until the day the LORD sends rain on the earth.' ”” (1 Kings 17:13-14 NKJV)*

When she adds giving, her answer came. Her giving daily to Elijah first guaranteed daily provision for her and her son throughout the remaining period of the famine.

*“So she went away and did according to the word of Elijah; and she and he and her household ate for many days. The bin of flour was not used up, nor did the jar of oil run dry, according to the word of the LORD which He spoke by Elijah.” (1 Kings 17:15-16 NKJV)*

- Take note of the value of her gift - her last meal.

### **3. Jephthah**

*“However, the king of the people of Ammon did not heed the words which Jephthah sent him. Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jephthah, and he passed through Gilead and Manasseh, and passed through Mizpah of Gilead; and from Mizpah of Gilead he advanced toward the people of Ammon. And Jephthah made a vow to the LORD, and said, "If You will indeed deliver the people of Ammon into my hands, then it will be that whatever comes out of the doors of my house to meet me, when I return in peace from the people of Ammon, shall surely be the LORD's, and I will offer it up as a burnt offering." So Jephthah advanced toward the people of Ammon to fight against them, and the LORD delivered them into his hands. And he defeated them from Aroer as far as Minnith--twenty cities--and to Abel Keramim, with a very great slaughter. Thus the people of Ammon were subdued before the children of Israel. When Jephthah came to his house at Mizpah, there was his daughter, coming out to meet him with timbrels and dancing; and she was his only child. Besides her he had neither son nor daughter. And it came to pass, when he saw her, that he tore his clothes, and said, "Alas, my daughter! You have brought me very low! You are among those who trouble me! For I have given my word to the LORD, and I cannot go back on it." So she said to him, "My father, if you have given your word to the LORD, do to me according to what has gone out of your mouth, because the LORD has avenged you of your enemies, the people of Ammon." Then she said to her father, "Let this thing be done*

*for me: let me alone for two months, that I may go and wander on the mountains and bewail my virginity, my friends and I." So he said, "Go." And he sent her away for two months; and she went with her friends, and bewailed her virginity on the mountains. And it was so at the end of two months that she returned to her father, and he carried out his vow with her which he had vowed. She knew no man. And it became a custom in Israel that the daughters of Israel went four days each year to lament the daughter of Jephthah the Gileadite." (Judges 11:28-40 NKJV)*

Please keep in mind that Jephthah is the divinely recognized judge of Israel and was leading Israel to war at God's command.

*"Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jephthah, and he passed through Gilead and Manasseh, and passed through Mizpah of Gilead; and from Mizpah of Gilead he advanced toward the people of Ammon." (Judg 11:29 NKJV)*

While the scriptural account gives few details it is clear that something goes wrong. The exact cause of Jephthah's problem would go undetected except for two verses in chapter 12. There we learn that the tribe of Ephraim disobeys Jephthah's command and leaves him at the mercy of the enemy.

*"And Jephthah said to them, "My people and I were in a great struggle with the people of Ammon; and when I called you, you did not deliver me out of their hands." (Judg 12:2 NKJV)*

When the tribe of Ephraim rebelled, the balance of power swings into Ammon's favor. Suddenly Jephthah is faced with grim reality, unless he can get God to intervene immediately, otherwise the Ammonites will destroy the army of Israel.

In desperation, he makes a vow.

*"And Jephthah made a vow to the LORD, and said, "If You will indeed deliver the people of Ammon into my hands." (Judg 11:30 NKJV)*

He energized his prayer with the best gift he can possibly give – He gives God the authority to take whatever he will from among his belongings.

*"Then it will be that whatever comes out of the doors of my house to meet me, when I return in peace from the people of Ammon, shall surely be the LORD's, and I will offer it up as a burnt offering." (Judg 11:31 NKJV)*

The Lord honored his prayer.

*"So Jephthah advanced toward the people of Ammon to fight against them, and the LORD delivered them into his hands." (Judg 11:32 NKJV)*

God chose his only child, a precious daughter as the first to come out to meet him. If Jephthah keeps his promise she will have to serve in God's house for the rest of her life. She will

remain a virgin and never have children. There will be no lineage of Jephthah left in the earth. How great this man's offering was!

Jephthah fulfilled his vow.

*“And it was so at the end of two months that she returned to her father, and he carried out his vow with her which he had vowed. She knew no man. And it became a custom in Israel.” (Judg 11:38-40 NKJV)*

#### **4. Cornelius a Roman centurion.**

*“There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian Regiment, a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, who gave alms generously to the people, and prayed to God always. About the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God coming in and saying to him, “Cornelius!” And when he observed him, he was afraid, and said, “What is it, lord?” So he said to him, “Your prayers and your alms have come up for a memorial before God. Now send men to Joppa, and send for Simon whose surname is Peter. He is lodging with Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the sea. He will tell you what you must do.” And when the angel who spoke to him had departed, Cornelius called two of his household servants and a devout soldier from among those who waited on him continually. So when he had explained all these things to them, he sent them to Joppa.” (Acts 10:1-8 NKJV)*

Cornelius is a devote man who sincerely desires to have a personal relationship with God. He always put to practice everything he learns about God. The scripture is careful to mention his generosity in the giving of his finances. And he prayed to God regularly that he might know Him more.

While Cornelius prays, an angel appears to him and gives him the clearest explanation found in scripture about prayer that is mixed with giving.

*“And when he observed him, he was afraid, and said, “What is it, lord?” So he said to him, “Your prayers and your alms have come up for a memorial before God.” (Acts 10:4 NKJV)*

The angel tells Cornelius that when God saw his prayer mixed together with his giving, it became a memorial in his sight.

**Note:** - Prayer is great and powerful by itself. Giving is also powerful. However, God's word says when these two powerful acts are mingled together, they become even greater they become memorial prayer.

The angel tells us that memorial prayer takes up permanent residence in the sight of God. The Amplified Bible emphasizes this truth even more by saying that this kind of prayer is *“preserved before God (so that He heeds and about to help you)”* - Acts 10:31.

*“Send therefore”* - Acts 10:32.

He tells Cornelius that because he mingled his prayer with giving, he can now send for the Apostle Peter.

- The Angel's words teach us that prayer mixed with giving not only amplifies the power of the prayer; it also prolongs its effectiveness.
- This type of prayer has much influence with God, for we see it move God's hand to the rooftop in Joppa, and bring Simon, a Jew, to the home of Cornelius, a Gentile.

When your prayer and offering are mixed together they produce something bigger than either can produce by itself. They form a memorial prayer, a super charged prayer that rises up and perpetually presents the desire of your heart before God.

## 5. The Widow's mite

*"Now Jesus sat opposite the treasury and saw how the people put money into the treasury. And many who were rich put in much. Then one poor widow came and threw in two mites, which make a quadrans. So He called His disciples to Himself and said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all those who have given to the treasury; for they all put in out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all that she had, her whole livelihood.""* (Mark 12:41-13:1 NKJV)

Jesus is in front of the offering plate, observing the people as they give their money - Mk.12:41

- Notice that He is observing not only how much they give. He is especially interested in their innermost feelings as they give. He is interested in the measure with which they give - Mk12:41-42.
- All offerings are not equal.

The rich gave out of their abundance (their excess funds). They are actually giving out of the money they have left after they have met their basic needs – Mk 12: 44

However the widow's offering is made up of a different kind of money. She is giving out of her bill-paying money. The Bible says her offering is made up of the money she is living on - Mk.12:44

Being an Israelite, the widow knows that Jehovah is a good God and wants to bless her. She also knows from His word that if she gives generously to him, He will be more than generous to her.

How valuable this woman's offering is, for she must depend upon God to replace the money she is giving so that she can meet the needs she has that very day.

She had to cast down all evil imaginations the devil bombarded her with in trying to hinder her from giving her "little" but "greatest" offering.

Her violent action brings attention. The Bible tells us the abrupt action of the widow immediately catches the attention of our lord - Mk.12:43.

If you look closely, you will see that the Lord not only acknowledges the extreme value of her gift, but also realizes she desperately wants something from Him. Yes, she has attached a prayer to her giving. Watch closely or you will miss it.

*"....she of her WANT did cast in all that she had....."* Mk.12:44.

Those few words from Jesus let us know that the widow's money is part of something bigger than just an offering. It is a memorial prayer, for she has mingled it with a special, desire she, has in her heart she wants something from God.

She puts all her trust in God to Provide for her, knowing that all she has will not be enough for her in the first place.

### **GOD MADE A MEMORIAL**

God understands how it feels to want something. You see, He wanted you. In fact, to get you, God did exactly what this poor widow did. He mixed His giving with his desire. Because of His great desire for you, He gave His only son on the cross of Calvary.

*“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16-17 NKJV)*

This most famous verse tells us that God memorialized his desire for you by adding something to it. He gave His son at Calvary so that he could have you. The cross of Jesus is a perpetual memorial of God's giving. He understands the principle of giving to receive.

Let the widow's action guide you in focusing God's attention on your desire. Simply begin to mix giving with your prayer, and you will be amazed at how quickly God will give His attention to the thing you want.

### **WHY MEMORIAL PRAYER WILL WORK FOR YOU**

#### **1. God doesn't play favorites.**

Memorial prayer will work for you because the God you serve is not a respecter of persons. If it worked for others, it will for you.

*“And Peter opened his mouth and said: Most certainly and thoroughly I now perceive and understand that God shows no partiality and is no respecter of persons.” (Amplified V Acts.10:34)*

#### **2. God doesn't hold back the good things.**

Memorial prayer is a good thing. And it brings good things into one's life.

*“For the LORD God is a sun and shield; The LORD will give grace and glory; No good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly.” (Ps 84:11 NKJV)*

#### **3. God wants you to be triumphant and victorious.**

Memorial prayer brings triumph and victory to those who use it.

*“Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place.” (2 Cor 2:14 NKJV)*

*“But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Cor 15:57 NKJV)*

- Memorial prayer is triumphant prayer. It brings victory when nothing else will.
- 4. God has something better for you.**  
God has promised he has better things for you than the Old Testament saints had.
- “God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us. (Heb 11:40 NKJV)*
- 5. God never changes.**  
If He did a thing before, He will do it again. If He answered memorial prayer before, he will answer you today.
- “Then the Pharisees went out and immediately plotted with the Herodians against Him, how they might destroy Him.” (Mark 3:5-6 NKJV)*
- “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.” (Heb 13:8 NKJV)*

(To be concluded in the next edition)

## SUCCESS TIT-BITS

1. For every seed sown, there is a harvest. The harvest will come in form of favor.
2. Today started yesterday and tomorrow starts today. Yesterday's seed is today's experience; tomorrow's experience is today's seed.
3. The favors of tomorrow will be the harvest of the seeds of today.
4. The problems you solve for others will create doors of favor for you. Be a problem-solver.
5. When a man's ways please the Lord he makes his enemies to be at peace with him.
6. An act of kindness from you will attract acts of kindness towards you.
7. Do unto others what you will have them do unto you. Like, begets like.
8. What you make happen for others, God will make happen for you.
9. God will always cause men to sow into your life what you have sown into people's life, same measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over.
10. Men shall spend for him that knows how to spend for others.
11. You can set the stage for favor to come to you.
12. Tithing and giving provokes open heavens.
13. And open heavens is favor. An act of kindness can open a great door of blessing.
14. Sowers are Reapers.

15. **Problem-solvers attract favor.**
16. **Favor is not necessarily a reward for the good done, but can be a reward.**
17. **“A good man obtains favor of the LORD but a man of wicked devices will he condemn (Prov. 12:2).**
18. **“The LORD detests lying lips, but he delights in men who are truthful” (Prov. 12:22)**
19. **Marriage attracts favor, but immorality attracts curses.**
20. **“A gift opens the way for the giver and ushers him into the presence of the great” (Prov. 18:16)**
21. **Thank you tips secure relationship, keeps doors open and keeps blessings flowing.**
22. **Favor is open-heavens, open-doors and divine connection.**
23. **Obedience to God brings favor.**
24. **God’s friendship guarantees unlimited favor.**

## **WISDOM FOR ASSOCIATION**

1. **Those who do not respect your assignment disqualify themselves for a relationship.**
2. **Your assignment determines your close associates.**
3. **Never discuss your problem with someone incapable of solving it.**
4. **Those who will not respect your time will not respect your wisdom either. Avoid time wasters.**
5. **Define every relationship to manage your life and your time well.**
6. **Don't submit leadership of your life to friends.**
7. **Your friends are counselors, but you are the decision maker. Your decisions determine your experience.**
8. **Those you hear always have influence over you.**
9. **What you see friends do repeatedly, you are likely to copy consciously or unconsciously.**
10. **Evaluate your relationships from time to time in order to eliminate the unnecessary, and redefine the necessary.**

## **RENEWING THE MIND**

1. **The activity in the human mind determines the experience of each man.**
2. **It is the use of your mind that makes men to mind you.**
3. **Success and failure is in the mind, it depends on how a man thinks.**
4. **Creative thinking moves a man forward, but negative thinking paralyses and destroys a man.**
5. **Problems cause or propel a man to think.**

6. **How you think determines if you will overcome, and if you will, how soon.**
7. **All the scientific breakthroughs and products today are results of solving or tackling a problem. Use your brain and don't be afraid of problems.**
8. **Your thoughts have presence. They are like currents moving through the air. Those thoughts are capable of drawing people towards you or driving people away from you.**
9. **Thoughts are things- living things.**
10. **Thoughts have magnetic power to draw to you what dominates your mind. What is on your mind?**
11. **You are what you think.**