

MEMORIAL PRAYER (Part 2)

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In our last edition we discussed much about memorial prayer, what it is, those who practiced it in the bible and why it will work for you (To read the first part, click on archives). In this concluding edition, you will learn how to form your memorial prayer and receive your answer.

THE SCOPE OF MEMORIAL PRAYER

1. It will work with your children.
2. For a better standard of living.
3. It will bring the right mate (life partner)
4. It will work at the brink of disaster

- **WARNING:** Make sure you pay your vow.

“When you make a vow to God, do not delay in fulfilling it. He has no pleasure in fools; fulfill your vow. It is better not to vow than to make a vow and not fulfill it. Do not let your mouth lead you into sin. And do not protest to the [temple] messenger, “My vow was a mistake.” Why should God be angry at what you say and destroy the work of your hands?” (Eccl 5:4-6 NIV)

FORMING THE PRAYER OF YOUR MEMORIAL

“Thou shalt make thy prayer unto him, and he shall hear thee, and thou shalt pay thy vows. Thou shalt also decree a thing, and it shall be established unto thee: and the light shall shine upon thy ways.” (Job 22:27-28 KJV)

“ And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.” (Luke 11:1 KJV)

You must learn how to construct your memorial prayer

Notice that the word to “make thy prayer” is not speaking only of the wording of your prayer, but also of the construction of your prayer they speak of mixing together the gift and the decree.

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

Hannah became violent as she began to speak to God about being forgotten. The widow of Zarephath became violent when she gave her last meal to the man of God. Without a doubt, the widow with the two mites showed violent action as she threw all her money into the offering.

If you construct your memorial prayer in this way, by mixing together your gift and your decree, God assures you of the answer. The Bible says, “...it shall be established unto thee.....”

The Hebrew word translated to be “**established**” means.

1. The thing you demanded will be accomplished
2. The thing that is bad will be made good
3. The thing needed to be done will be performed
4. Those things that oppose you will not oppose you any longer God will rise up against them.

- Always pray God’s will. That you attach money to your prayer when your request is outside of God’s will, will not get you an answer. You cannot buy or bribe God.

“This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.” (1 John 5:14 NIV)

You can make memorial prayer for:

- Salvation of souls.

“The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.” (2 Peter 3:9 NIV)

- Financial deliverance and prosperity.

“Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.” (3 John 2 NKJV)

- A brother or sister in Christ.

“Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another.” (Rom 14:19-20 NKJV)

Be sure to state clearly the thing you desire. Give as much thought as possible to what the Bible says about it. It is always good to have a Bible verse or references that agree with or parallel the thing for which you are asking.

There must be boldness in your prayer. You must not be sheepish. You must speak with authority when you make your petition known.

“Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” (Heb 4:14-16 KJV)

DETERMINING THE MONEY OF YOUR MEMORIAL

“I tell you the truth, wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her.” (Mark 14:9 NIV)

Her ointment was very expensive and everybody there new that. To be remembered, you must give something that is costly.

1. The gift must be very valuable to you

“While he was in Bethany, reclining at the table in the home of a man known as Simon the Leper, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, made of pure nard. She broke the jar and poured the perfume on his head. Some of those present were saying indignantly to one another, “Why this waste of perfume? It could have been sold for more than a year’s wages and the money given to the poor.” And they rebuked her harshly. “Leave her alone,” said Jesus. “Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. The poor you will always have with you, and you can help them any time you want. But you will not always have me. She did what she could. She poured perfume on my body beforehand to prepare for my burial. I tell you the truth, wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her.”” (Mark 14:3-9 NIV)

Each time you make a memorial prayer, there will be many other important things you need to do. Don’t you know that the little widow with two mites (Mk.12:41-44) had a long list of things she could have done with her money? However she decided this time she would spend it in making a memorial prayer. This time it would be for the thing she decided.

2. It must be the most you can give at the time and not the least

“She did what she could. She poured perfume on my body beforehand to prepare for my burial.” (Mark 14:8 NIV)

This simple statement of Jesus gives us the formula for establishing the money of every memorial prayer that would ever follow hers. It fairly settles the amount the rich, as well as the poor, should give. Every person must simply give all he can.

- You will never memorialize your prayer by giving the least you can, or even by giving more than the average person. The money of your memorial must be of such importance in your eyes that it projects to our lord the urgency of your request, as well as the sincerity of your heart.

3. God is moved as you are moved

Because of God’s unlimited wealth, He has chosen to establish **the size of an offering, not by the amount the person gives, but by how much he has left after he has given.**

“Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, “I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others.” (Mark 12:43 NIV)

- Here is a good rule to follow when establishing how much to give. **If the gift is insignificant to you, it will be insignificant to God.** Scripture tells us that whatever moves us will move God.

“For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are-yet was without sin.” (Heb.4:15 NIV)

- He feels what you feel. **He draws His opinion about your offering from the way you feel about it.** If the amount you give does not impress you, it will not impress Him. If your gift represents little value to you, it will be of little value to Him.

4. Establishing an eternal memorial

Not until verse nine do we understand how much value our Lord places upon this woman’s Alabaster box of ointment.

“I tell you the truth, wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her.” (Mark 14:9 NIV)

- The value the woman placed on the oil established its worth to God.

Note: scripture does not say the oil of spikenard was precious to Jesus, but to the woman. Because it became precious to her, it immediately became precious enough to him to memorialize her act of giving.

“I tell you the truth, wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her.” (Mark 14:9 NIV)

This kind of giving will memorialize your prayer. As our Lord said, the amount must be significant to you. It must be all you can do.

DETERMINING YOUR OFFERING

In determining your offering therefore, you must evaluate just how important the request of your memorial prayer is to you. This evaluation must guide you in determining how much you will give as the offering.

As you prayerfully consider the amount of your gift, at some point you will feel peace begin to come over you. God’s word says His peace will come upon you and work as an umpire to tell you when your gift is proper.

“And let the peace (soul harmony which comes) from Christ rule (act as umpire continually) in your hearts [deciding and settling with finality all questions that arise in your minds, in that peaceful state] to which as [members of Christ’s] one body you were also called [to live]. And be thankful (appreciative), [giving praise to God always].” (Col 3:15 AMPV)

THREE METHODS OF GIVING

1. THE VOW

A vow is nothing more than a solemn promise. Two of those who offered memorial prayer in the Bible used vows - Hannah and Jephthah.

As you remember, Hannah gave a vow as her offering because the gift she offered was a son she had not yet conceived.

Jephthah vowed because he was far from his home and possessions. The enemy was coming in like a flood. There wasn't time to go home and get his offering. Because of the distance, he simply vowed to give when he returned.

Either one of those reasons is acceptable in making your offering with a vow. If for some reason you don't have the amount you want to give, you can make "a vow or as some call it a faith promise" your earnest intention will be to pay it as soon as you have it.

Vowing is a legitimate way to give God if you are without funds, or if you are far away from your funds. You have to transfer funds, sell stock or sell property. Just remember, you must pay a vow made to God as quickly as possible.

"When you make a vow to God, do not delay in fulfilling it. He has no pleasure in fools; fulfill your vow." (Eccl 5:4-5 NIV)

2. THE IMMEDIATE OFFERING

The widow with two mites gave an immediate offering. She took what she had at hand and gave it to the lord. This type of offering is simple to give. It immediately expresses the sincerity of your heart.

If you are giving an immediate offering be careful that it conveys your inner most feelings about your prayer request. Be sure it is a significant amount to you so that it will be significant to the Lord.

3. SEGMENTED OFFERING

Segmented offering is made in payments. Cornelius and the widow of Zarephath used this type of giving to turn their prayer into memorials.

"She went away and did as Elijah had told her. So there was food every day for Elijah and for the woman and her family." (1 Kings 17:15 NIV)

"He and all his family were devout and God-fearing; he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly." (Acts 10:2 NIV)

- If you will not be able to give the amount you feel impressed to give in a lump sum, go ahead and make the gift in payments.
- As you will determine to give, the devil will raise opposition through people in form of discouragements. Remember the woman with the Alabaster box of ointment.
- Be settled about the amount you are to give, lest the devil make you switch back and forth between amounts. Then you will diminish your ability to receive from God.

"That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does." (James 1:7-8 NIV)

When you have the peace of God about the amount, do not waver. Let your spirit be settled and unchangeable.

You must be determined.

Determination is the forceful state of mind that does not allow you to stop doing what you have decided until you have completed it. Determination kept Jesus on the road to cavalry.

You must now rise up in confident determination and give the amount God's peace has confirmed to you. Do it now, and do it exactly as God has directed you by the blessed approval of the Holy Spirit.

PROPERLY PLACING YOUR MEMORIAL OFFERING

"Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown." When he said this, he called out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."" (Lk.8:8. NIV)

Your offering must be planted in a good ground.

- A good ground is a minister or ministry that is in agreement with memorial prayer. He understands and agrees with memorial prayer.
- Even as the adding of giving to your prayer increases its power, the adding of agreement will increase its power even more.

"Again I tell you, if two of you agree (harmonize together, make a symphony together) about whatever [anything and everything] they may ask, it will come to pass and be done for them by my Father in heaven." (Mt.18:19 AMPV)

- I hope you realize it would be impossible for someone to agree, harmonize, or make a symphony with you over your memorial prayer if that person did not fully understand it.
- It is important that agreement with your memorial prayer goes beyond simply understanding the request position. There must also be an understanding of the method of prayer you are using.

CONCLUSION

It is now time to act. Clearly state the petition you are making to the Father. Keep a copy for yourself and send one to the minister you want to agree with you. If you are led to send it to me, do so now.

Carefully determine the amount of money and the way in which you will give it. If you will be using a vow, make sure you sincerely intend to keep it. If you will give an immediate offering, be sure the amount is significant to you and adequately convey the importance of your request to God. If you will be giving segmented offering, send the first part with your remaining payments clearly written. Please don't make the mistake of stopping before you have given the promised amount. Some people stop giving because their answer comes before they fulfill their promised offering others stop because they see no immediate results. With your prayer request clearly written with the amount of offering firmly fixed in your mind, place the gift and the prayer together before God now earnestly pray over them and send them to me, pray daily in agreement with me, as I will pray each day until the answer comes.

Tell us when it happens without delay.

SUCCESS TIT-BITS

1. **God has the final word on every subject. What men say is not final, but God's word is.**
2. **People's opinion of you is not the real truth of you except it is in agreement with what God says about you.**
3. **God's opinion about you is final and real. Whatever God says about you, accept it to be true and final. Any other thing by any other person is not binding.**
4. **What men say about you will only work in your life if you believe it and fear its actualization, and if you are not living in accordance with the word of God.**
5. **Success demands patience with God, with people and with your plans and programs.**
6. **Information is the key to strength, stability and direction.**
7. **It takes adequate information to make an effective plan.**
8. **Every experience of life is packed with lessons for better life experiences.**
9. **The favor of God will open doors for you, stop the devil, give you ideas, connect you, lead you to your green pasture where you will feed fat. Seek God's favor.**
10. **Those who are on the Lord's side are haters of evil and unrighteousness.**
11. **Until you are tired of your present position, you can't go forward.**
12. **The choices you make determine the experiences you have in life.**
13. **The choice you make determines how you channel your energy, and where you channel your energy.**
14. **A man who is satisfied with "status quo" can never make moves to get out into a better realm of living.**
15. **Until you see the need for a change, you can't desire change.**
16. **It is only those who want change that get changed.**
17. **Believe you are more than what the eye can see now, and you will be motivated to move beyond your present level.**

WISDOM FOR ASSOCIATION

1. **You achieve more working with others than working alone.**
2. **When there is no personal relationship, then team work will be impossible.**
3. **Working with others involves total commitment to the work and to one another.**
4. **Love your team mates well enough to talk good about them for this will enhance team work.**
5. **Guard your mind against negative thoughts about your friends and team mates; otherwise, your love for them and willingness to work with them will be destroyed.**
6. **Offences will always come from your team mates. Since you or your colleagues are not yet perfect in conduct, it is wise that you give room for offence.**
7. **Don't expect your friends and team mates to be without fault. Don't expect too much so you will not be too disappointed.**
8. **Just as others need what you contain, so you need what others contain.**
9. **Goals and dreams last longer than rejection, injury and pain. Therefore be willing to endure pain to create and enjoy an eternity of gain through working**

- with others. Do not be scared of hurts, they won't kill you. Be motivated and driven by the assignment.
10. Fill your heart with love for your team mates. Let your heart reach to them in prayer daily to the Almighty God, and your relationship with them will be fantastic and richly rewarding.

RENEWING THE MIND

1. Keep your thoughts clean at all times.
2. Keep love afresh in your heart for your family, friends and team mates. Battle every evil thought that wants to kill that love.
3. A man's feelings are a manifestation of his thoughts "As in water, face answers to face, so the mind of man reflects the man." (Prov.27:19)
4. There can be no feelings (emotions) without thoughts.
5. Whatever feelings you have towards anybody is a product or the function of your mind based on the information fed it by your physical senses.
6. A man's thoughts motivate and push him to say and do the things he says and does.
7. Life is a product of concepts, opinions, ideologies and beliefs. This is the reason why God teaches his word to reveal the truth about all things to man, this in turn will liberate man from error and wrong life.
8. Your knowledge determines your principles in life and how you live.
9. Ability to manage one's thoughts is ability to manage one's life.
10. Determine in your heart to only think those things that are in agreement with the word of God.