



The G.E.M.

Edition 3

The Grace Electronic Magazine

March 2007

FOCUS ON PRAYER

Can you believe it, this is already the third edition of *The G.E.M.* and six months that Grace Media has been in business. Thank you to all who have supported us over the last six months. God has really blessed the business and we can see his hand of provision in everything we do.

This month we have decided to focus on prayer and personal devotion. There are many resources available on prayer and devotion, and in this edition we will highlight just a few of them to help you. We have many more titles in stock, so come through and check them out. We can all improve our prayer and devotional life somehow.

We have also focused on a great ministry that is equipping many churches throughout the world and in Southern Africa, Willow Creek. Check them out on page two and their website: www.willowcreek.org.za

For those of you who have visited our website, be sure to visit it again. We have changed the colours and made it easier on the eyes. (www.gracemedia.co.za)

Also, please take note of our new e-mail address: shop@gracemedia.co.za. Please make the necessary changes to your address book.

Until your next visit to the store, or the next edition of *The G.E.M.* God bless.

Glyn and Linda Williams



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Life can be Tough

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I will overcome the world!" (John 16:33 - NIV)

Jesus never promised us that everything would be perfect here on earth. He recognised that we would encounter trouble, but his instructions were to be of good cheer - not to let it get us down.

As we encounter difficulties in life, it will help us to remember the big picture. First, God is our Father and has a wonderful eternal plan for us. We are his children and he loves us. Second, our time here on earth is but a training period for our future life with God. We are supposed to be learning to trust God and to obey him.

So, every problem we ever face is an opportunity to walk in faith and please God. Every problem is an opportunity to overcome with God's help. How can we expect to receive the blessings promised to the overcomer if we never have anything to overcome?

What is the answer when we seem overwhelmed with trouble? Look to Jesus. He has already won the victory. He has overcome and defeated the world. In him is victory.

You may ask how you can look to Jesus. It is mostly a matter of focus - what you choose to think on. What God says in his Word will set you free and give you peace. What the circumstances say is not the final word.

So, go to God's Word. Cling to the promises. Speak them. Sing them. Shout them. Rejoice over them, and thank God for them.

Also, you need to develop a closer relationship with the Lord. That is his desire and it should be yours too. All relationships are based on communication, so you must talk to the Lord to deepen your relationship with him. Develop the habit of talking with him about everything. You can speak freely to him - after all he knows what you are thinking anyway.

WILLOW CREEK S.A.

Willow Creek Southern Africa is part of the Willow Creek Association.

Their Mission:

To envision, equip, and encourage Christian leaders to build prevailing local churches.

Since 1992, the Willow Creek Association has been linking like-minded, action-oriented churches with each other and with strategic vision, training, and resources. Their desire is to serve local church leaders in building biblically functioning churches that reach increasing numbers of lost people, not just with innovations from Willow Creek, but with God-given breakthroughs with widespread potential from any church in the world.

The Willow Creek Association is a not-for profit ministry with more than 11,000 Member Churches from 90 denominations and 45 countries. They represent a wide variety of sizes, denominations and backgrounds, and are ministering in literally every corner of the world. As they pursue their own unique, God-given vision for ministry in their community, Member Churches confirm a shared commitment to Christ and a passion for reaching lost people.

Some of the Willow Creek titles currently available at Grace Media.

Becoming a Contagious Christian

by Bill Hybels & Mark Mittelberg

ISBN: 0-310-21008-9

Evangelism doesn't have to be frustrating or intimidating. Bill Hybels and Mark Mittelberg believe that effectively communicating our faith in Christ should be the most natural thing in the world. We just need encouragement and direction.

Through this book you will learn to:

- Discover your own natural evangelism style
- Develop a contagious Christian character
- Build spiritually strategic relationships
- Learn to direct conversations toward matters of faith
- Share biblical truths in everyday language

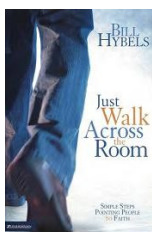
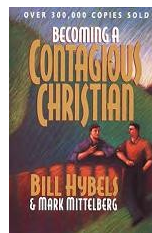
R160.00

Just Walk Across the Room

by Bill Hybels

ISBN: 0-310-27218-1

In *Just Walk Across the Room*, Bill Hybels introduces the next era in personal evangelism with a natural, relational



approach that follows Jesus' own example. When Christ "walked" clear across the cosmos 2,000 years ago, he had no formulas and no script – just an offer of redemption to people like us, many of who are neck-deep in pain of their own making.

Find out how you can make the difference of an eternity for someone standing near you. It all starts with a walk across the room.

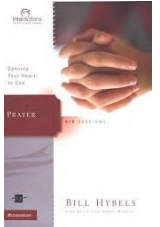
R150.00

InterActions Small Group Series

by Bill Hybels

InterActions is a powerful, challenging tool for building deep relationships between you and your small group members, and you and God. *InterActions* is far more than another group Bible study. It is a cutting-edge series designed to help small group participants develop into fully devoted followers of Christ.

R65.00



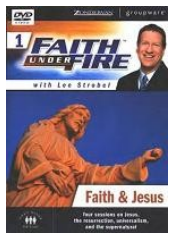
Faith Under Fire DVD Series

by Lee Strobel

Does the Christian faith stand up to scrutiny – tough scrutiny? Aren't all religions basically the same when you dig below the surface? Based on Lee Strobel's provocative national TV programme of the same name, *Faith Under Fire* features fascinating debates and riveting interviews with Christians, atheists, Muslims, and proponents of other faiths as they tackle today's hottest spiritual topics. Interviewer and facilitator Lee Strobel concludes each session by offering his own perspective.

R170.00

Participants Guides also available at R70 each.



The Heart of the Artist

by Rory Noland

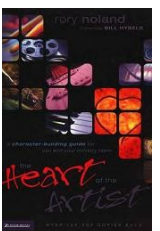
ISBN: 0-310-22471-3

"I wish I had your gift!" How do you handle those words as a creative artist? Somewhere between pride and self-abasement lies true humility – just one aspect of the balanced character God wants to instill in you as an actor, musician, visual artist, or other creative person in the ministry. God is interested in your art and your heart.

The Heart of the Artist deals head-on with issues every person in an arts ministry faces:

- Servanthood versus stardom
- Excellence versus perfectionism
- The spiritual disciplines of the artist
- The artist in community, and more

R150.00



HOW GOD ANSWERS PRAYER

Jesus assures us in Matthew 7:7,8 that our prayers will be answered: *“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.”* (NIV)

Yet sometimes we can't help but wonder, because as we pray for things in our lives (e.g. that a broken relationship be healed, that a loved one recover from serious illness, that a friend succeed in some new venture), things do not always turn out in the way that we had hoped. We sometimes believe that our prayers are not answered; or even heard. Doubts start to creep in, and we ask ourselves whether we can believe Jesus' promise.

The Good News of God's Love

Throughout the ages, Christians have affirmed, out of their own triumphant experiences, that God does indeed respond to faithful prayer. God hears, understands, cares, and acts.

Christians have discovered the Gospel, the good news of God's love, that the creator and redeemer loves each of us more than we do ourselves, that he wants what is best for us, and is actively at work for our good.

“Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!” (Matt. 7:9-11 - NIV).

God hears our prayers, and, far beyond anything that we can imagine, he responds.

How our Prayers are Answered

God's response to prayer is not always what we expect. Sometimes the answer is hard to discover. Sometimes it is hard to accept. But if we listen with care, we will discern the answer. God will answer our prayers in one of the following ways:

God may say “Yes”. When our prayer for others, or for ourselves, coincides with the good that God wills for their/our lives, we may find that what we were seeking actually comes to pass. We rejoice in God's goodness and give thanks for gifts received.

God may answer our prayer with “No”. What we request may be opposite to God's divine will for human life. Or, even though good in itself, there may be a still greater good that God is preparing for our lives. God's “no” is often hard to accept. We may be confused, even angry, and our trust in God may begin to waver. However, if we continue to listen, we will find the meaning in God's denial and find the “yes” beyond the “no”.

God may say “Wait”. God is not in as big a hurry as we are. We may not yet be ready for what we think we need. We may need to do some more growing first, to prepare the way for God's gift. We may need to change some circumstance in our lives before we could even begin to use what God has to offer. In waiting, we may learn to pray a different prayer, to seek and find what is more in line with God's will for our lives.

God may respond with something better than what we asked for. It is often the case that God answers with something we might never have thought of on our own. With our limited view of human needs, we pray for one thing, only to discover the answer is quite another. We may not even see this answer at first, or if we see it, we may be disappointed. However, as we accept and live with this new answer, we often find it is far richer, deeper, more lasting than anything we had in mind.

The Mystery of Prayer

Prayer is not like magic. Many cultures believe in magic. A rain dance, for example, if performed properly, would automatically bring the rain. If it did not, the dancers must have made a mistake.

But prayer is different. It is a mysterious conversation with the living God. In the course of the conversation we clarify, and perhaps change, our own hopes. For example, we may begin praying that a dying loved one be spared. But as our dialogue with God and our prayer matures, and we may find that what we are truly seeking is a deeper relationship with our suffering loved one, insights on how to share God's love with them, or firmer personal resources for coping with our loss.

This means that prayer is more listening than asking. In our conversation with God we need to spend more time listening. What is God's will for this situation? Where is God moving? In what direction is God leading? What changes are already occurring to me? What new attitudes and behaviours are expected of me?

Yes, behaviours. For the answer to prayer is not fully received and accepted until it is outwardly expressed. Our prayer is inevitably linked with our actions.

Ours is an active and sovereign God, who is moving us and all creation toward the day of Jubilee – God's reign of righteousness, wholeness, peace, and justice. Every prayer, for whatever purpose, and every answer of the loving God, is an opportunity to take new steps into the coming kingdom.

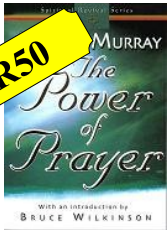
Prayer is a mystery. We do not fully understand how it works, but we do know that when, in faith, we come into conversation with the living God, our deepest hopes are heard, refined, and, yes, answered.

Amen!

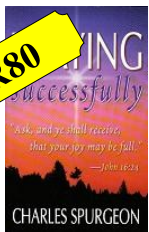


ON PROMOTION

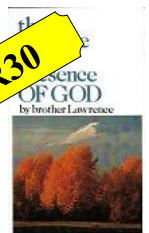
PRAYER



R50
The Power of Prayer
by Andrew Murray



R80
Praying Successfully
by Charles Spurgeon



R30
The Practice of the
Presence of God
by brother Lawrence

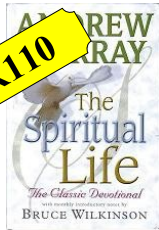


R89
Praying Together
by Martha Graybeal
Rowlett



R83
Creating a Life
with God
by Daniel Wolpert

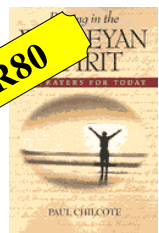
DEVOTIONALS



R110
The Spiritual Life
Devotional
by Andrew Murray



R250
NIV® Prayer
Devotional Bible



R80
Praying in the
Wesleyan Spirit
by Paul Chilcote



R40
Power of Praying®
Book of Prayers Series
by Stormie Omartian



R130
My Time with God
Devotions on CD

CHILDREN'S & MUSIC



R100
Kid's Life
Devotions



R37
Praying is !WoW!
by Penny Elliott



R60
Teen Devotionals
by Anne McFarlane



R50
In God's Presence
by Upper Room
Ministries



R110
Soaking CD's
Vol. 1 & 2

JUST ARRIVED



R85
Supernatural
by Hillsong Kids
DVD also available
R135



R100
Fifty Reasons why
Jesus came to Die
by John Piper

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From the N3, take the Linksfield Rd offramp. Turn right up hill. Stay in left lane. Turn left into Civin Dr. At 4th set of lights, turn left under bridge. At t-junction turn left. Through the boom. We are ± 200m on the right hand side. Entrance is in Penhurst Ave.

