

Discover Your Identity
Experiment with Prayer
Step Into Your Spiritual Authority

SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY COHORT



NOVO

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Welcome to the Cohorts

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR COHORT TEAM

Welcome to this experiential prayer training that we call a Spiritual Authority Cohort!

A few things as you begin:

1. The only requirement to participating in a Cohort is a **hunger for more**. We all come in at a different starting points on the journey, just start where you are and lean in for more
2. The thing that makes this Cohort journey powerful is the **experimenting and practicing**. It's not enough to just listen to the teaching and do the recommended reading on the different prayer tools we'll be equipping you with (see the Spiritual Authority Toolbox). The transformation occurs when you begin to experiment with these tools. We create a safe place to first practice together, then we ask you to experiment on your own. We like the word "experiment" because with experiments there is no failing, only learning. It takes practice to gain confidence in anything—activating prayer is no exception.
3. There are really two journeys happening as you go through the Cohort. The first is a **personal transformation** where you grasp your true identity as a child of the King and a royal priest; grow in intimacy with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; and learn to hear God's voice. The second journey is one of **learning to partner with Jesus our King** in bringing the Kingdom to earth as it is in heaven. This is when things really get fun, and we start to be expectant for the Kingdom assignments that God has for us in our day-to-day lives. By this point, you will be more comfortable experimenting with the prayer toolbox, and your confidence will be growing as you begin to see God show up.

Our hope is that by the time you finish this Cohort, you'll be able to say what many of our graduates have said, "I now understand who I am and the spiritual authority that has been delegated to me, and I have a new toolbox of prayer tools and know how to use them."

Blessings on the journey!





Who is Novo?

WHY THE COHORTS ARE KEY TO THE MISSION

Novo is a band of creative missionaries sent to multiply movements of the gospel and mobilize the church for that mission around the world.

In alignment with the latter part of that calling, we are compelled to invite, empower, and equip the church for that vision. This is where **Spiritual Authority Cohorts** come in! The Cohorts awaken disciples to their identity in Christ, equipping them with the power dimension of the gospel and empowering them to see gospel movements in their communities, neighborhoods, and cities.

In Acts 1, Jesus tells his disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the gift his Father promised. He further explains, in verse 8,

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Jesus empowered his disciples to be his witnesses, and he does the same for his disciples today. Through the Cohorts, you will be empowered to know where to start on your gospel movement journey within your community. We're excited to partner with you!

How to Use This Workbook

FINDING WHAT YOU NEED

This workbook is designed to be a place where you can find all the components for each module, as well as a space to record your learnings along the way. Each module consists of 5 sections that will help you get the most out of your Cohort experience:

Pre-Work

The pre-work gives you some context and foundation for what you'll learn in the module. It usually includes 1-3 recommended chapters in the course books and may also include a podcast or one of Novo's Foundations booklets. In addition to the recommended reading, there is also space in the pre-work section to begin processing what you're learning and to record your questions for the meeting.

In Session

Here you'll find all the content you'll need during the session meeting.

- **Teaching Notes:** In this workbook, there is only blank space to take notes, but if you like more detailed presentation notes, you can find those in our online learning platform or through your local leader, if applicable.
- **Lab instructions:** This is a safe place to begin practicing these tools together before you experiment on your own after the meeting. Most labs are designed to do in groups of three.

Each session meeting will follow this basic format:

Welcome & Opening Prayer

Homework Discussion

Participants will discuss the experiments from the previous session and the pre-work for the current session.

Sharing of Experiment Stories

Participants will have an opportunity to share a quick story of impact from their experiments with the group.

Presentation

Each session will focus on a different topic and prayer tool.



Question & Answer

Lab Time

Participants will have an opportunity to practice the prayer tool they just learned with a few others.

Homework & Announcements

Final Debrief

Experiments

Essentially, your “homework” after each session is to get out and practice what you’ve just learned. This is the most critical part of the Cohorts—it’s where the real transformation happens!

Meetup Guides

Mid-module Meetups are strongly encouraged to give you a place to process what you learned during the session and to practice the prayer tool with other Cohort participants. The Meetup Guides are suggested agendas for 75-90 minute meetups, but you should feel comfortable to adjust as the Spirit leads.

Additional Resources

Want to learn more? For each module, we include a list of other great resources that expand upon what you just learned and experimented with, usually made up of books, articles, podcasts, and additional content to look for in the Appendix.

Spiritual Authority Toolbox

TOOLS COVERED DURING THE COHORT

Declarative Prayer (“In the Name of Jesus”)

Declarative prayer is doing as the disciples did when they followed Jesus’ example of praying with authority. It is simply aligning yourself with God’s desires and declaring Kingdom truth over a person, place, thing, or circumstance instead of interceding and asking God to do something. Intercession is still a very valid and important form of prayer, but this is not intercession—it’s a posture of aligning and declaring as opposed to asking.

Blessing

Blessing is a form of declarative prayer. It is a gift of encouragement or truth given to a person, place, or thing. When you use your authority as a child of the Most High God and a co-heir with Christ, your words have the power to shift the spiritual atmosphere. Blessings are spoken directly to the person, place, or thing rather than interceding to God. There are many forms of blessing. Two common ones are *Declaring Scripture* and *Blessing in the Opposite Spirit*.

- ***Declaring Scripture***

Declaring scripture is using the Word of God to speak Kingdom truth into a person, situation, or place. For example, when someone is facing a stressful situation, one may bless this person with “the nearness of the Good Shepherd, who makes us lie down in green pastures, alongside quiet waters,” or you might bless him or her with “the easy yoke of Christ, knowing that you are not alone, but that Jesus is carrying the burden as well.”

- ***Blessing in the Opposite Spirit***

Blessing in the opposite spirit is the act of declaring the opposite of what is happening or believed. Many times it is declaring truth where there have been lies. For example, if someone is feeling dejected, the Spirit may lead one to bless with hope. Or if someone is feeling anxious, it may look like blessing that person with peace that surpasses all understanding.

Listening Prayer

Listening prayer is the practice of asking and attending to what God speaks to you. He can speak



using thoughts, impressions, words, or pictures. This communication is then tested to see if it's consistent with scripture and confirmed by the Holy Spirit, by others, and by the fruit of whatever we are prompted to do. Listening prayer can be used for your own intimacy with the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit, and it can be used when praying for others by asking Jesus how he wants us to pray.

Inner Healing Prayer

Inner healing prayer is a process that allows us to honestly face our emotional wounds for the sake of greater healing and intimacy with God. It acknowledges that Christ cares about our "inner life" and wants to heal us holistically. It incorporates different forms of listening prayer and can utilize tangible prayer experiments that allow us to see, hear, feel, and encounter the healing only Jesus can offer. Each prayer session is a combination of conversation, prayer, listening, blessing, and being led by the Holy Spirit.

Priestly Prayer

The Lord has made us all members of the royal priesthood (1 Peter 2:9). Priestly prayer helps us to enter into our role as priests by taking up the authority God has given to us and asking God to show us how our circumstances and the world around us can be opportunities to pray as priests. The work of the priest involves dealing with sin, binding the enemy, and bringing a blessing. Priestly prayer works in the spiritual realm to bring about change in the physical realm.

Physical Healing Prayer

In John 14:12, Jesus proclaimed, "Anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing...." This promise of Jesus most certainly includes the miracle of physical healing. In dependency on the leading and empowering presence of the Holy Spirit, every believer can learn to pray with expectation for the hurting to be healed by God through intercessory or declarative prayer.

Prayer-Walking

Prayer-walking involves taking our prayers to the very places where we desire to see God's presence manifested and our prayers answered. It's an active type of prayer where you ask and listen for insight from God then discover what he would like you to do about it. Think of prayer-walking like gardening in the land: we want to remove the things that prevent us from planting, then we want to plant good things to grow and flourish.

Reading Plan

BOOK LISTS AND CHAPTERS

In each module, we will let you know which books and chapters we recommend you read to prepare you for that module's topic. However, to give you an overview of all the required and recommended reading throughout the course of the Cohort, we've included a list below. We encourage you to read each book cover-to-cover after the Cohort has finished.

Required Reading

Visit our online learning platform to download PDFs of the Novo booklets in English and Spanish or to listen to them as audiobooks (English only).

- *Spiritual Authority for Every Believer*
- *Word/Deed/Power*
- *Engaging the Supernatural*
- *To the Ends of the Earth*

Recommended Reading

Listening and Inner Healing Prayer: Meeting God in the Broken Places

by Rusty Rustenbach

Recommended chapters: Foreword, 1-10, Appendix A

The Life Jesus Made Possible: Embracing the Kingdom Within our Reach

by Bill Randall, Novo staff

Recommended chapters: 1, 3-6

The Grace Outpouring: Becoming a People of Blessing

by Roy Godwin and Dave Roberts

Recommended chapters: 1-11

Moving Mountains

by John Eldridge

Recommended chapters: 1-2, 5-6, 12, 14-15



01

MODULE

Spiritual Authority & Declarative Prayer

PRAYER TOOL: DECLARATIVE PRAYER & BLESSING

Our objectives for Module 1 - Spiritual Authority & Declarative Prayer are that you:

1. Gain an understanding of the Word, Deed, and Power paradigm and the importance of living holistically from the center
2. Learn what spiritual authority is and why we have it
3. Recognize common barriers to stepping into our spiritual authority and identify which ones you recognize in your own life
4. Understand the difference between intercessory prayer and declarative prayer and why both are important
5. Begin to use declarative prayer and know how to speak a blessing over a person, place, or thing

Pre-Work

BEGIN LEARNING ABOUT SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY

The purpose of this pre-work is to give you a solid foundation before your first meeting together. All three assignments are essential and won't take you a lot of time, so please make them a priority. By completing the pre-work, our objectives are that you will:

- Hear about three dimensions of the gospel and begin to live holistically from the center
- Gain some historical context for Novo's journey with prayer and the Holy Spirit
- Understand the spiritual inheritance you have as a follower of Jesus and how it relates to spiritual authority
- Begin to develop a foundation for spiritual authority and why God has delegated it to us
- Identify the relationships and contexts where God is inviting you to engage in prayer

Welcome and Cohort Orientation video:

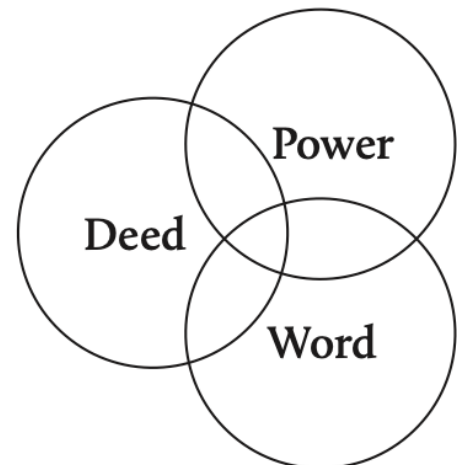
We're excited to have you on this journey with us! Hear from Cohort Director, Tim Shuck, as he shares the impact of the Cohort on his life and orients us to what lies ahead on this six-module journey.

<https://link.novo.org/Cohort-intro>

Reading:

This module's required pre-reading is:

1. *Spiritual Authority for Every Believer* by Darren Rusco
Introduction and Sections 1-4
This work represents a biblical study of the topic of Spiritual Authority and builds a solid foundation for the spiritual rights of every believer.
2. *Word, Deed, Power: The Three Dimensions of the Gospel* by Sam Metcalf, former Novo president
This short booklet presents an integrated vision for living out the good news that can energize



your spiritual life and lay the foundation for effective mission and evangelism.

In the *Word, Deed, Power* booklet you will learn:

- What the three dimensions of the gospel look like in Christian practice
- The downfalls of only emphasizing one dimension and ignoring the others

Reading Questions and Takeaways

Upon reading “Spiritual Authority for Every Believer,” What stood out to you about the authority structure that God put in place in the beginning?

Does the Authority that Jesus proclaimed end with the disciples or was it imparted to all believers?

Based on what you read in the *Word, Deed, Power* booklet, write a brief description of the three dimensions of the gospel below:

Word:

Deed:

Power:

Why is it so important to move toward the center of these three dimensions, where all three integrate and overlap?

Relationship Mapping Tool

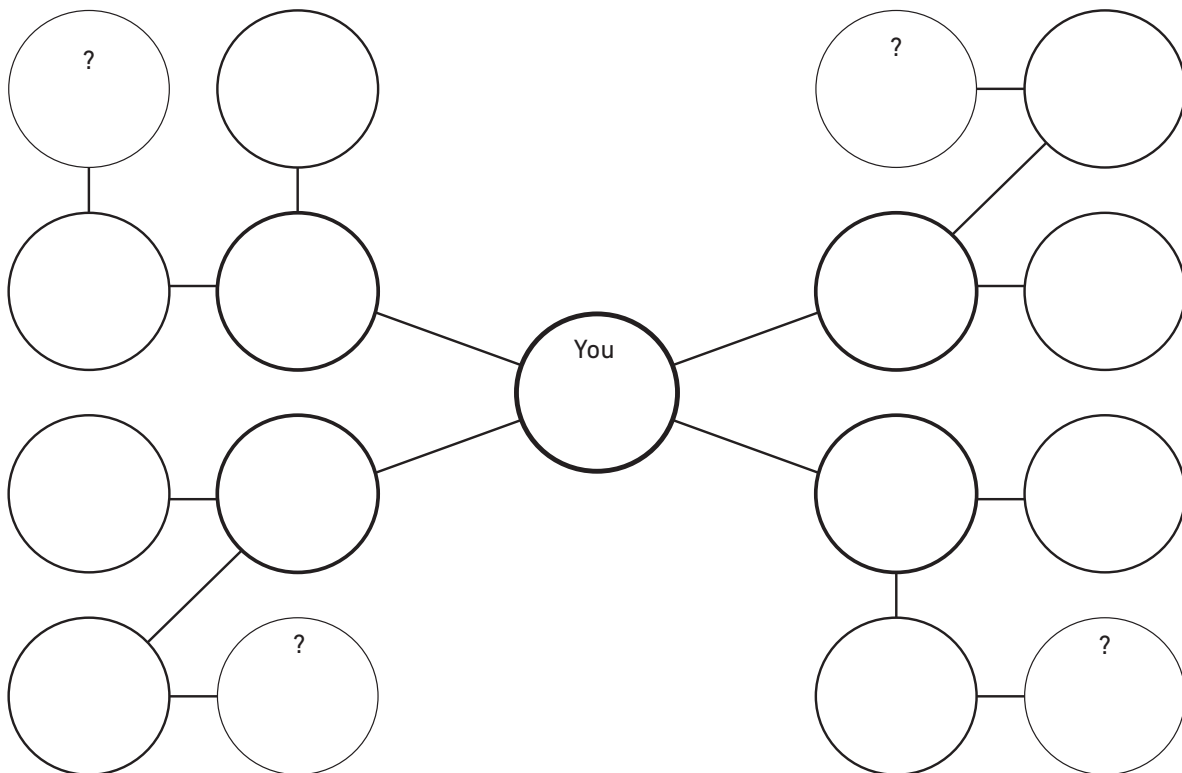
SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY FOR THE SAKE OF WHAT?

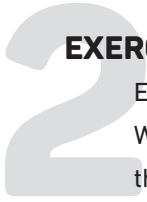
Jesus gives his disciples spiritual authority to empower them as his witnesses. Acts 1:8 explains this, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." He commissions and empowers them to extend his Kingdom into all of the world. The same is true for us today.

It's our intention and hope that, as you progress through these modules, your experience will empower you to participate boldly in bringing the Kingdom to your spheres of influence. The Relationship Mapping Tool will help you know where to start and on whom you should focus, and it will give you a frame of reference for asking the Lord where he is currently at work in your life. Below are two exercises to help you identify your missional context. We will refer back to this tool in almost every module, so please keep it accessible.

EXERCISE: RELATIONSHIP MINDMAP

Write your name in the middle of a piece of paper. Think of people in your life who don't yet know Jesus. Write their names in the circles connected to you. Then, think of people they know and write their names in the connecting circles.





EXERCISE: CONTEXT MAP

Each circle represents an area of life where you interact with others on a regular basis. Write the context name (e.g., school, work, hobby type, neighborhood) on the bold line and then the names of the people within that context on the lines below. Ask God to highlight certain names and places.

CONTEXT:

CONTEXT:

CONTEXT:

CONTEXT:

Session Notes

NOTES FROM THE PRESENTATION

"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."

Ephesians 6:12



Blessing Lab

PRACTICE DECLARATIVE PRAYER AND BLESSING

1. **Declaring Scripture:** Get in groups of three. Choose one of the scriptures below or any other scripture that comes to mind to bless the person on your left with. Use the model: "In the name of Jesus, I bless you with _____."

- **Phil 4:7** - the peace of God which passes all understanding.
- **2 Cor 13:14** - the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.
- **Eph 3:16-19** - power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.
- **Col 1:9b-10** - the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives.
- **John 10:1-10** - the nearness of the Good Shepherd.
- **Gal 5:22-23** - one or more of the fruits of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

2. **Blessing:** One at a time, briefly share an area of life where you could use a blessing. Your partners will take a minute to listen and ask God how to bless you, then they will speak a blessing over you.

- Partners can declare using Scripture, bless your true identity, bless in the opposite spirit, or in any other way God leads them.
- Partners should try to stick to speaking a blessing, not interceding.
- After you finish blessing everyone in your triad, discuss how it felt to speak a blessing over someone rather than interceding for someone and how it felt to receive a blessing.



Experiments

PRACTICE BLESSING AND READING REFLECTION

1. Select three people from your

Relational Mapping Tools on pages 19-20. Before our next meeting, connect with them in person or over the phone, and speak a blessing over them. Any type of blessing is fine (declaring Scripture, blessing a person's true identity, blessing in the opposite spirit, etc.). Start with three people, but you don't have to stop at three!!!

Be prepared to share your learnings from practicing blessing at the next meeting. What was it like for you? Did you sense anything changed for the person you blessed? Take notes on the next page.

Blessing #1 -

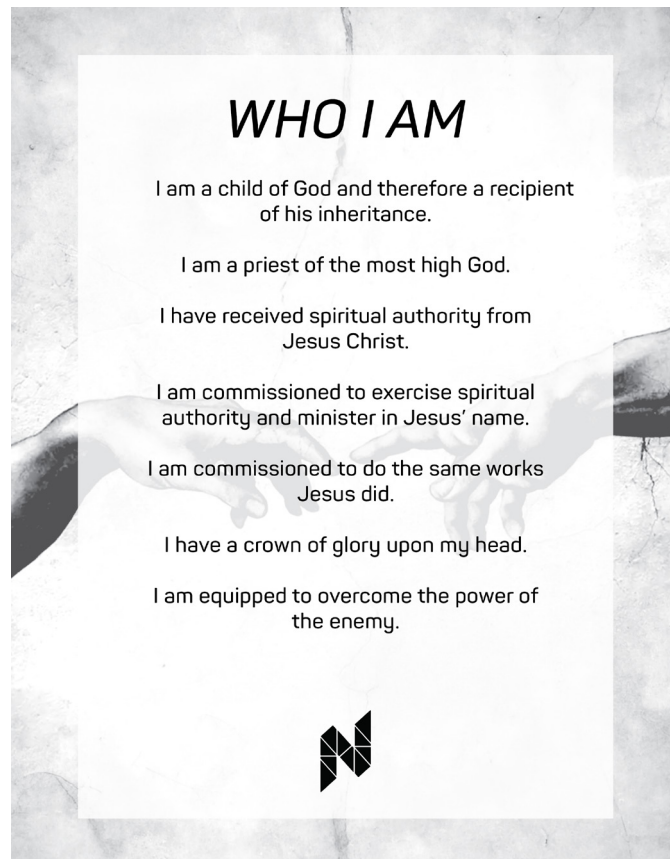
Blessing #2 -



Blessing #3 -

2. Finish Reading Sections 5 and 6 of “Spiritual Authority for Every Believer” by Darren Rusco.
 - Look at your Relationship Mapping tool. When thinking about the concept of Positional/Status Authority or Abiding/Personal Intimacy Authority, which areas do you have one or the other or both?

3. Spend a little time reflecting on these 7 statements found at the end of Rusco’s “Spiritual Authority for Every Believer.” Which of them do you believe? Which of them do you not believe? Ask God to help you know these truths experientially.



Module 1 Meetup

DISCUSSION AND EXPERIMENTATION GUIDE FOR MEETING BETWEEN SESSIONS

Open in Prayer

Group Discussion (30 min)

Optional: Discuss this module's "Reading Takeaways and Questions"

Truth #1: We live in the midst of a spiritual battle (see Eph 6:12 and Dan 10).

- Is this truth something that you think about often? Why or why not?
- In what ways has this truth influenced your prayer life and actions, or how will it be an influence moving forward? (Hint: see Truth #2)

Truth #2: We have spiritual authority as followers of Jesus (see Luke 10:19 and Galatians 4).

- Review the basis for our spiritual authority:
 - Identity: We are children of the King (see Romans 8:15-17).
 - Delegation: We've been sent out in Jesus' name with his authority and power (see Acts 3:6; Mark 6:7; Luke 9:1-2; Luke 10:17).
 - Intimacy: It's based on the presence and leadership of God in our lives (see John 5:19; Acts 4:13).
- Discuss the concept of spiritual authority.
 - Was this concept new to you?
 - What does this authority allow us to do (see Luke 10:1-20; Matthew 16:19)?
 - When you consider your Relationship Mapping tool, how can you see God inviting you to step into your spiritual authority in those relationships?

Triad Discussion (10-15 min)

Declarative prayer and blessing are wonderful and easy ways to start stepping into your spiritual authority. Have you started experimenting with them?



- If so, share your experiences so far: What happened? How do you feel it went? What worked, and what will you do differently in the future? Discuss suggestions on how to handle situations that did not work.
- If not, discuss why not and your plan for experimenting: What's been holding you back? Is it lack of time, confidence, opportunity, or something else? Do you have someone in mind you'd like to bless? How will you make this happen? Share any other thoughts you have about completing your experiments this month.

Experiment – Blessing in the opposite spirit (20-25 min)

Stay in your triads and take turns doing the following:

- One person briefly shares something he or she would like prayer for and how this problem makes him or her feel.
- The others listen for lies from the enemy that the person might be believing or anything that doesn't belong in the Kingdom of God (e.g., fear, stress, pain, etc.). Then bless the person who shared in the opposite spirit (e.g., with Kingdom truths and realities). For example: fear --> perfect peace, stress --> trust in God, pain --> healing, etc.

Optional: Discuss next module's "Reading Takeaways and Questions"

Close in Prayer

Additional Resources

BOOKS, ARTICLES, PODCASTS, & MORE

To learn more about Spiritual Authority, Declarative Prayer, and Blessing, check out these resources below.

Additional Chapters in Cohort Books:

- Chapters 1-2 in *Moving Mountains* by John Eldredge

Podcasts:



Stories from the Toolshed

Episode 1: Blessing: Intro to “Stories from the Toolshed”

Stories from the Toolshed is Novo’s spiritual authority podcast available on Apple podcasts. It features interviews with Cohort grads about the impact they’ve seen in their families and communities as they’ve partnered with God and applied the tools they learned in the Cohorts.



Made For This with Jennie Allen

Episode 14 - Understanding Spiritual Warfare with Dr. Sam Storms

This podcast hosted by Cohort grad, Jennie Allen, helps re-emphasize the reality that we have been delegated spiritual authority and that we are in a spiritual battle.



Word, Deed, Power Podcast

“Intro to the Spiritual Authority Cohort”

This conversation gives background on Word, Deed, and Power, the importance of understanding our identity as daughters and sons of the King, and why these Cohorts were developed. Novo President, Mark Thrash, interviews Novo founders Sam and Patty Metcalf.

<https://link.novo.org/WordDeedPowerPodcast>

Articles in the Appendix for Module 1:

- “Declarative Prayer in Scripture” by Patty Metcalf, Novo founder
- “15 Characteristics of Spiritual Authority” by Novo staff, Dr. Michael Crow; adapted by Steve Hoke, Novo staff
- “Identity Statements: WHO WE ARE” by Charles Kraft, adapted by Steve Hoke, Novo staff

Other Resources:

“Moving Mountains: Praying with Bold Authority” by John Eldredge:

<https://www.faithgateway.com/moving-mountains-bold-authority>

Chapters 3-4, & 7 in *I Give You Authority* by Charles Kraft

02

MODULE

Hearing God

PRAYER TOOL: LISTENING PRAYER

Our objectives for Module 2 - Hearing God are that you:

1. Understand that as children of God, we can hear his voice. This fosters intimacy with God, which is the foundation of our spiritual authority
2. Discover why and how God speaks to followers of Christ today
3. Recognize God's voice, know how to filter his voice from others, and identify barriers that block his voice
4. Practice hearing God for yourself and for others

Pre-Work

BEGIN LEARNING ABOUT HEARING GOD

Reading

This module's required reading is:

Novo Foundations booklet *Engaging the Supernatural* (available as a downloadable PDF in English or Spanish or audiobook in our online learning platform)

This module's recommended reading is:

The Foreword and chapters 1 & 4 of *Listening and Inner Healing Prayer* by Rusty Rustenbach

Reading Takeaways & Questions

Which of the bulleted statements under “Engaging the Supernatural—the Normal Christian Life” (pp. 36-38 of *Engaging the Supernatural*, Revised edition, 2020) spoke to you the most and why?

Which, if any, of Rustenbach's thoughts about listening to God (chapter 1) did you relate to? And how do you feel now about the possibility of developing a listening relationship with God? For example, are you skeptical or convinced, doubtful or hopeful, experienced in listening or brand-new to it?



Which of the ways mentioned in chapter 4 of Rustenbach or *Engaging the Supernatural* (or any other ways) has God has spoken to you in the past?

What stood out to you the most in the *Listening and Inner Healing Prayer* chapters you read?

Session Notes

NOTES FROM THE PRESENTATION

"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me." John 10:27



Hearing God Lab

PRACTICE LISTENING PRAYER

In this module's lab time, we will spend some time in a "Meeting Place" with Jesus asking him questions about the way he sees us and deepening our friendship with Him. Then we'll get into triads to practice listening on behalf of each other.

Part 1: A Meeting Place

We know that God lives in our hearts and wants to meet with us. Intimacy is his desire. The idea of a meeting place is to ask Jesus to show us where he would like to meet with us. We have seen this be a helpful "tool" in hearing from God. This meeting place can be a physical, historical, or spiritual place to meet with Jesus "to behold and be held." Sometimes he will show you a place you know or can relate to. If nothing comes right away, it's ok to choose a place that's safe for you, somewhere you have actually been, or like in Psalm 23, green pastures and still waters. Many times people imagine a peaceful place in nature or a quiet nook in their house. The idea is to engage your heart, mind, and spirit to meet with Jesus and have connection with him.

Before you start, take time to "dial down" and invite the peace of God to enter into your heart and mind. You can also reference the "Listening Prayer Guidelines" from Rusty Rustenbach's book.

1. Invite the peace of God to enter your heart and mind.
2. Ask the Lord if there is place he would like to meet you. See what comes to mind, what it looks like. Ask him to show you details.
 - Jesus, what about this place? Why did we come here?
 - Is there something you want to tell me or show me? Feel free to interact with questions and thoughts. Jot things down.



10. When was the last time you laughed over me? Why?

11. If you could meet me anywhere face-to-face, where would it be?

12. If my heart is your home, what does that home look like?

13. If you could play a game with me, what would it be? Why?

14. What's grieving you these days? Why?

15. What's exciting you these days? Why?

Part 3: Listening Prayer in Triads

Listening prayer is a wonderful tool for growing in intimacy with God and discernment about things in our own lives, but it can also be an incredible way to minister to others. When we listen on behalf of others, we can hear God's heart for them and then encourage, strengthen, and comfort them with what we hear. And doing listening prayer as a group can be very affirming when more than one person hears the same thing. So the purpose of this part of the lab is to practice listening on behalf of each other. **There will be three rounds of practice, and you'll have 15 minutes total for the three rounds.**

Instructions:

1. One person in the triad will briefly share something going on in his or her life that could use prayer. (30 sec)
2. Then the triad will listen on the sharer's behalf. Even the sharer should practice listening as he or she might hear something, too. (30-60 seconds)
3. Tentatively offer what you heard, and then speak a blessing or use another tool from the toolbox. Even if you didn't hear anything, you can still bless with scripture, bless the person's identity, or bless in the opposite spirit. (3 ½ - 4 minutes)
4. After 5 minutes, switch to the next person for round two, then repeat for round three.
Tip: It's helpful if one person keeps a 5-minute timer to make sure everybody gets prayed for.

If you finish early, spend some time discussing the following questions in your triad:

- What was your experience like doing listening prayer for someone else?
- What was it like being on the receiving end?



Experiments

DEVELOP A PRACTICE OF LISTENING

“Learning to listen to God is a process that starts awkwardly and grows slowly but develops and matures until it is hard to see how you could have ever lived without it.”

- Rusty Rustenbach, *Guide to Listening and Inner Healing Prayer*, p. 62

Experiment #1 - John 10:1-10 Listening Prayer

Exercise developed by Mark Thrash, Novo President

Read John 10:1-10 a few times slowly. As you read, see if God has a word or phrase for you from that passage. If something pops out to you, sit with that word or phrase for a little while. After you have sat with it, talk to God about it. Does he have anything to say?

In the passage, it talks about different potential voices. Make a list of the voices in your life (thought life and real life).

What is their message? What are they saying? Write it out. If any of those messages are trying to steal, kill, or destroy, label them as “thieves” or “robbers.”



What is the Good Shepherd saying to you today? Ask him.

What does the Good Shepherd have to say about those other messages above?

Experiment #2 - Hearing God for Others: Relationship Mapping Tool

Exercise adapted from Can You Hear Me? by Brad Jersak (pp. 67-68)

"As you begin to hear God more clearly for yourself, it follows that you might also hear him for others. Whenever we teach on this subject, we begin by asking our congregants to restrict their prophetic experiments to blessing and encouragement. When you prophesy to someone (defined simply as sharing something that you believe God has shown you), you don't need to be his or her personal psychic. Just be an instrument of God's friendship and blessing.

1 Corinthians 14:3 says, "*But everyone who prophesies speaks to men for their strengthening, encouragement and comfort.*" Because we value truth and love over sounding impressive, our church restricts itself to prophesying within these parameters: no direction, no correction; no dates, no mates; no births, no deaths. I once heard this formula: If your motive is love, your purpose is encouragement, and your content is Scriptural, then you cannot miss. Love + Encouragement + Scripture = Bullseye!"

- Brad Jersak

Now take what you heard, and reach out and bless that person with what you heard by text, email, phone call, letter, or get together in person. How did it go? Make a note about what you learned through this exercise.

In addition to completing the experiments, we recommend the practice of hearing from God becomes a regular practice in your life. Here are some tips:

- Be intentional. Make time for it.
- Practice. You can:
 - Use the steps on the Listening Prayer bookmark.
 - Ask, “Lord, where do you want to meet with me? What do you want to say to me?” Or “What does my soul need to hear from you today?”
- Write things down. Ask more questions. Sit with what comes.
- Test what you hear with the filters. If it passes, choose to take what came as from the Lord.
- Begin to practice listening prayer as a daily rhythm.

Listening to God Guidelines

- 1. Come fully present before God**
Fix your attention fully on Jesus and away from distractions. Hebrews 12:2
- 2. Exercise Christ's authority over all other voices**
Pray similar to, “In the name of Jesus Christ, I command all other voices to be silent.” James 4:7 and Acts 16:18
- 3. Ask the Three-in-One to reveal Himself in a special way**
Come quickly to rescue and help me, O Lord. Psalm 70:1
- 4. Ask God to search your heart**
Talk to Him about what He reveals, confess any known sin. Psalm 139:23-24
- 5. Ask Jesus to communicate with you**
Speak, Lord, for I am listening. 1 Samuel 3:10 and John 16:12-14
- 6. Wait in silence**
My soul waits in silence for God only. Psalm 62:1
- 7. Write down impressions**
Usually this will be thoughts, pictures, or Scripture that enters your heart and mind. 1 Corinthians 2:10-16
- 8. Test impressions with God's word, His character & the body of Christ**
Don't suppress the Spirit or stifle God's communication, but don't be gullible. Check it out carefully; keep only what passes the test. 1 Thessalonians 5:19-22

Module 2 Meetup

DISCUSSION AND EXPERIMENTATION GUIDE FOR MEETING BETWEEN SESSIONS

Open in Prayer

Group Discussion (20 min)

Optional: Discuss this module's "Reading Takeaways and Questions"

Discuss the Meeting Place exercise you did in the session. Did it help you to hear His voice?
In what ways?

- *Compare notes and encourage each other.*
- *Everyone is different. Women tend to be able to listen sooner. Right brains "get it" faster than left brains. It often takes time, and the key is to keep trying.*

Discuss the Friendship Questions exercise. Which of the questions (if any) did you get an answer to? How did the answer impact you?

- *It's okay if you didn't get answers during the Cohort. Sometimes that "performance anxiety" can make it hard for some to hear on demand at the start.*
- *And like Rusty Rustenbach says, "It starts awkwardly and grows slowly."*
- *If you didn't finish the questions or struggled to hear, go back and finish the questions by yourself later.*

Experiment #1 – Hearing God for Others: Relationship Mapping Tool

(25 min) Exercise adapted from *Can You Hear Me?* by Brad Jersak (pp. 67-68)

Please use your Relationship Mapping tool on pages 19-20 to complete this experiment with your huddle. Spend five minutes in listening prayer on behalf of those you've included on your Relationship Mapping tools. As a group, take turns sharing what you heard from the Lord (10 minutes total). Take another five minutes to listen on behalf of each other's Relationship Maps, then spend the final five minutes blessing those relationships together.



Use these questions if they're helpful as you listen.

1. Who do you want me to encourage today? Why?
2. What do you see when you look at them? Why?
3. How do you feel about them? Why?
4. What's one reason why you are pleased with them?
5. What word or promise or scripture verse could I share? Why do you want them to know this?
6. What symbolic gift could I give them from you? What does it represent?

Experiment #2 – Do listening prayer on behalf of someone in your group *(25 min)*

Go through the questions below on your own, taking 2 minutes for each question to listen to God and write down what you hear.

Questions:

1. Who in this group do you want me to encourage today? Why?
2. What do you see when you look at them? Why? What, if anything, about this do you want me to share with them?

Discuss what it was like to listen on behalf of others in the group and what it was like to be on the receiving end. Did God lead multiple people to pray for one person? If so, why do you think that is? Did multiple people hear the same thing for someone? Is that encouraging, and what do you think that might mean?

Optional: Discuss next module's "Reading Takeaways and Questions"

Close in Prayer

Additional Resources

BOOKS, ARTICLES, PODCASTS, & MORE

To learn more about Hearing God, check out these resources below.

Additional Chapters in Cohort Books:

- Chapter 12 (Listening Prayer) in *Moving Mountains* by John Eldredge

Other Recommended Books:

- *Can You Hear Me?: Tuning in to the God Who Speaks* by Brad Jersak (Freshwind Press)
- *Surprised by the Voice of God: How God Speaks Today Through Prophecies, Dreams, and Visions* by Jack Deere (Zondervan; Revised Edition)
- *The Joy of Listening to God: Hearing the Many Ways God Speaks to Us* by Joyce Huggett (IV Press)
- *Hearing God: Developing a Conversational Relationship with God* by Dallas Willard (IV Press)
- *Hearing God Through the Year: A 365-Day Devotional* by Dallas Willard & Jan Johnson (IV Press)
- *How To Hear God's Voice* by Mark Virkler (Destiny Image Publishers)
- *The Gift of Being Yourself* by David Benner (IV Press)
- *What's Your God Language? Connecting with God Through Your Unique Spiritual Temperament* by Dr. Myra Perrine, Novo staff (Tyndale House Publishers)
- *Practicing the Presence of God* by Brother Lawrence (Baker Publishing)
- *The Gift of Being Yourself: The Sacred Call to Self-Discovery* by David G. Benner (IV Books; Expanded Edition)

Podcast:



Stories from the Toolshed
Episode 2: Hearing from God





Hearing God's Voice - podcast of a conversation between two Novo (formerly CRM) leaders, Dr. Myra Perrine and Patty Metcalf, where they discuss how we can learn to hear God's voice

<https://link.novo.org/Hearing-Gods-Voice>

Articles/Chapters:

- “Scratch The Itch In The Name Of Jesus: How To Find Spiritually Interested People In An American Setting” by Cory Ozbun, Novo staff
<https://link.novo.org/Scratch-The-Itch>
- “Is There a Better Way to Pray for Our Cities?” by Tim Keller
<https://link.novo.org/better-way-to-pray-for-our-cities>

Articles in the Appendix for Module 2:

- “Five Reasons Why God Speaks” by Mark Thrash, Novo President
- “Additional Examples of God Speaking from Scripture”
- “Discerning God's Will” compiled by Novo staff, Dr. Myra Perrine and Steve Hoke

03

MODULE

Inner Healing

PRAYER TOOL: INNER HEALING PRAYER

Our objectives for Module 3 - Inner Healing are that you:

1. Understand the need for inner healing prayer and deliverance and ongoing spiritual hygiene for all believers
2. Take the next step forward in your own healing journey
3. Consider further equipping to offer inner healing prayer to others

Pre-Work

BEGIN LEARNING ABOUT INNER HEALING PRAYER

Reading

This module's recommended reading is:

1. Chapters 2-3, 5, & 10 of *Listening and Inner-Healing Prayer: Meeting God in the Broken Places* by Rusty Rustenbach
2. Also, try to familiarize yourself with the Navigator's *Facilitating Inner Healing Prayer* booklet, especially pages 1-13 and 29-30, as we will lead you through an inner healing exercise from the booklet and then you will have a chance to seal the prayer time and bless each other in triads.

Reading Takeaways & Questions

Based on the three basic symptoms that indicate healing is needed (Rustenbach, pp. 32-33), do you feel there might be an area of brokenness in which you need healing? If so, which of the following might describe the possible source: self-wounding, wounded by someone else, sin in reaction to hurt, or a misinterpretation of a neutral event (see descriptions on pp. 33-34).

Which, if any, of the effects of living separated from your heart (Rustenbach, pp. 43-45) have you experienced?



As you worked through chapter 5 of Rustenbach, what was a personal highlight for you?

There are many areas in which strongholds can exist in the believers life. What areas can you identify in your life where taking spiritual authority will benefit you in combating enemy attacks? (These can be in areas such as vows, curses, dedications, sin and trauma).

Session Notes

NOTES FROM THE PRESENTATION

"He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds." Psalm 147:3



Inner Healing Lab

PRACTICE INNER HEALING PRAYER

Part 1: Guided Healing Prayer Exercise

For part 1 of this module's lab, the presenter or facilitator will guide you through a healing prayer exercise. You'll start with a Meeting Place activity, similar to last month, where you'll encounter Jesus and ask him some questions about the place where he chose to meet you and how he wants to bring healing in your life. Next, your presenter or facilitator will lead you through some of the questions and process on pages 8-13 in the *Facilitating Inner Healing* booklet. Jot down what you hear below.



Lab Part 2: Inner Healing In Triads

For the second part of the lab time, you will get into triads to share a bit about what you just experienced during part 1, listen on behalf of the other members of your triad, seal what God did, and bless one another. Don't worry about needing to share everything that happened. You are in control of what you share, so only share what feels right and comfortable to you, without judgment! The Holy Spirit can seal and bless without airing the details!

Instructions:

- There will be three 8-minute rounds.
- During each round, one person will briefly share what he or she is comfortable sharing about the prayer time experience.
- The others will then take a few moments to listen on that person's behalf and ask God how to bless him or her. You might want to jot down what you hear below.

- After listening, the person's partners will first ask God to seal the time of healing. There's a sample prayer on p. 32 of the *Facilitating Inner Healing* booklet that you can follow, or you can pray things like asking God to:
 - Seal what he has done in the person's heart
 - Protect from the enemy
 - Restore intimacy
 - Speak to the person about his or her true identity
 - Remind the person of truth
 - Fill with the Spirit
 - Cause more fruit to come
- Then after sealing the healing time, the partners will tentatively share what they heard for the person and pray for/bless the person.
- After 8 minutes, switch to the next person, and repeat for the final person.

Experiments

DEVELOP A PRACTICE OF INNER HEALING

Your experiments are to:

1. Work through the “Forgiving Those Who Have Offended You” exercise on the following page.
2. Set aside 30 minutes to work through the Inner-Healing Guidelines from the Navigators bookmark (in the sidebar) or use the *Facilitating Inner Healing* booklet for yourself. (**NOTE:** For an additional self-led, interactive inner-healing experience, you can listen to the White Wall exercise recording by Keith Peeler, found in the additional resources for this module.)

This can also be done by getting together with someone else from the Cohort to practice facilitating and receiving inner healing, especially if you’ve been through the Cohort before. (**NOTE:** To facilitate for someone else, you can just walk through the steps in the *Facilitating Inner Healing* booklet. It will probably take you about an hour each, so be sure to set aside a good amount of time, or schedule 2 times to get together, once to facilitate and once to receive inner healing.)

While the experiments above are great ways to experience inner healing on your own, we believe that everyone can also benefit from a facilitated inner-healing prayer session. If you’re interested in receiving inner healing prayer, talk to your Cohort leader, or reach out to us at pdt.cohort@novo.org

Inner Healing Guidelines

Listen to God about these questions:

1. **Identifying & feeling the emotion**
2. **Discovering the root event**
God, when was the first time I experienced this emotion?
3. **Discerning the lie believed**
Jesus, what did I come to believe?
4. **Revealing the truth**
Lord, what truth do You have to communicate with me about the lie?
5. **Experiencing his freedom**
If healing has occurred, you should sense new freedom from the bondage. If bondage remains, is there another lie, Lord? If you are blocked, steps 6-10 may be helpful.
6. **Discovering what Jesus was doing**
Jesus, what were You doing and feeling when the wounding event took place?
7. **Extending & receiving forgiveness**
Jesus, have I forgiven the one who hurt me? God, have I forgiven myself? Have I come to peace with You for allowing it?
8. **Uncovering & renouncing vows**
Lord, is there a vow I made to protect myself from pain? If so, renounce it and cancel it in Jesus’ name.
9. **Breaking any pronouncements**
God, did an authority make a pronouncement over me? If so, break it in Jesus’ name.
10. **Surrendering a burden to Jesus**
If Jesus would take your burden, would you be willing to surrender it to Him? If you give the burden to Him, what will He give you in return? Gather the burden and lay it at His feet. What does Jesus do with the burden?

The Lord has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted... to set at liberty those who are oppressed.
Luke 4:18

Experiment #1 - Forgiving Those Who Have Offended You

Written by Bill Randall, Novo staff

"Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors." (Matthew 6:12) — In this text, Jesus reveals that you limit your experience of the freedom that God gives through forgiveness to the degree that you refuse to forgive those who have wounded or offended you.

What Can the Symptoms of Unforgiveness Look Like?

Ask yourself these questions: Is there a person to whom you tend to...

- Continually rehearse the wounding scenarios connected to this person?
- Avoid and treat with indifference?
- Talk to others about in a negative light?
- Carry a secret wish that they would somehow fail or feel pain?
- Treat in a passive/aggressive way?
- Become easily offended by?

Why Should You Practice Forgiveness?

Because unforgiveness affects your **relationship with God!**

- Matthew 6:14,15 - *For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.*

Because unforgiveness destroys your **relationship with others!**

- Psalm 73:21,22 - *When my heart was grieved and my spirit embittered, I was senseless and ignorant; I was a brute beast before you.*
- Hebrews 12:14,15 - *Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.*

Because unforgiveness gives the devil a **foothold!**

- 2 Corinthians 2:10,11 - *If you forgive anyone, I also forgive him. And what I have forgiven—if there was anything to forgive—I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake, in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.*
- Ephesians 4:26,27 - *"In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold.*
- Matthew 18:21-35 → The prison of unforgiveness

It's like drinking rat poison thinking it will somehow hurt the other person. (I have the right to have this poison and keep drinking it!)

Forgiveness Exercise:

The following is a tool designed to help a person work through the emotional, relational, and spiritual results of being hurt by another. Everyone has been and will be hurt by others in this life. We have no choice in this matter because we live in a fallen world full of broken people. But we do have a choice in terms of how we will respond to those who wound us. The great news is that Jesus Christ has provided the way out of a life of fixation on one's hurts and failures. The answer is simple, yet profound and powerful. The answer is forgiveness. By applying the gospel of forgiveness to our wounds, we are set free from living a life of reaction to the pain and anger of being hurt. Forgiveness is at the center of the Good News of Jesus Christ. Jesus sets us free by graciously forgiving us and by enabling us to forgive others. Yet, while available to all, this forgiveness must be individually received and applied.

How Do You Practice Forgiveness?

1. **Clarify** the offense (e.g., broken trust, lied against, gossip/slander, abandonment, betrayal, abuse, etc.).
2. **Identify** any sinful reactions (e.g., bitterness, resentment, hatred, avoidance, revenge, criticalness, gossip, keeping a record of wrongs, etc.).
3. **Confess** to God all sinful reactions.
4. **Forgive** every offense.
 - “_____, I forgive you for _____.”
(name) *(the offense)*
 - “_____, I choose this day to no longer live in reaction to that which you have said and/or done against me.”
 - “_____, I release you from the prison of my unforgiveness. Even as I have been forgiven, so also in Jesus' name I forgive you.”
5. **Bless** the offender. (Romans 12:14)
6. **Dismiss** any demonic oppression.



Module 3 Meetup

DISCUSSION AND EXPERIMENTATION GUIDE FOR MEETING BETWEEN SESSIONS

Note: We recommend you have the Facilitating Inner Healing booklet or pdf with you during this Meetup in case you need it for the Experiment time.

Open in Prayer

Group Discussion (20 min)

Optional: Discuss this module's "Reading Takeaways and Questions"

Was the inner-healing prayer tool new to you?

Did the need to deal with inner wounds resonate with you? (Only share if you're comfortable sharing, and you don't need to share details.)

- What types of wounds have you had to deal with?
- What types do you want to ask the Holy Spirit about?

How did the group Inner Healing lab time during the session go for you? (Only share at whatever level of detail you are comfortable with.)

- Did Jesus take you to the same meeting place as last month or a different place? Was there anything significant about that place?
- Did Jesus identify an area to focus on for inner healing?
- Were you able to get healing? Or do you need to revisit the conversation with Jesus?

Note: It was a short session, so it's common for people to get a rough idea of an area of focus, but it may take more time later to completely work through that area.

- Have you done more inner-healing prayer since the meeting (either for yourself or for others)? How did it go?

Experiment – Complete the “Forgiving Those Who Have Offended You” exercise together (30 min) located in this module's Inner Healing Experiments

Unforgiveness is the most common type of unhealed wound we humans carry around.



- As a group, briefly read through what the symptoms of unforgiveness can look like, the three reasons why you should practice forgiveness, and the introductory paragraph under “Forgiveness Exercise.”
- Spend a few minutes in listening prayer asking God, “Lord, is there someone you want me to forgive?”
 - *If someone comes to mind and you’re ready to forgive the person*, prayerfully work through each of the six steps of “How Do You Practice Forgiveness?” Write down what you hear from God as you go through each step. On step 6 (“Dismiss any demonic oppression”), remember that the enemy torments us in the areas where we have wounds. Once you have allowed Jesus to heal you, you are asserting your spiritual authority that the enemy no longer has any rights to attack or oppress you.
 - *If someone comes to mind but you’re not ready to forgive the person*, have a conversation with Jesus about that. Ask him to give you the desire to forgive and to prepare your heart to forgive. Sometimes, it can be a long process, but since unforgiveness gives the enemy a foothold in your life, it’s a worthy aim. Remember, forgiving someone doesn’t mean forgetting the offense. It means releasing the hurt and anger and releasing the debt the person owes you to God and allowing him to deal with that debt.
 - *If someone doesn’t come to mind*, ask the Lord if you need to spend some time forgiving yourself or even forgiving God. If so, ask him to reveal to you what you need to forgive yourself or him for. Then have a conversation with him about that. There are “Forgiving Ourselves” questions you can work through in the *Facilitating Inner Healing* booklet on pp. 19-21, and “Forgiving God” questions on p. 22. They are designed to be asked by a facilitator, but you can re-word them as questions to ask yourself.
- After about 20-25 minutes, break into pairs or triads. Without sharing what happened during the prayer time, seal the healing that God did for your partner and bless him or her. Remember, there’s a sample prayer on p. 32 of the *Facilitating Inner Healing* booklet, or you can pray things like asking God to seal what he has done in the person’s heart, protect from the enemy, restore intimacy, speak to the person about his or her true identity, remind the person of truth, fill with the Spirit, and cause more fruit to come.

Group Discussion (20 min)

Let people share their experiences (the details of what was forgiven is not important) and how they feel about that memory now that Jesus has healed them.

Additional Resources

BOOKS, ARTICLES, PODCASTS, & MORE

To learn more about Inner Healing, check out these resources below.

Additional Chapters in Cohort Books:

- Chapters 5-6 (Healing for the Brokenhearted & Welcome to the War!) of *The Life Jesus Made Possible* by Bill Randall, Novo staff
- Chapters 14-15 (Warfare Prayer & Inner Healing – Restoring the Soul) in *Moving Mountains* by John Eldredge
- Appendix A (The Biblical Basis for Inner-Healing Prayer) in *Listening and Inner-Healing Prayer* by Rusty Rustenbach.

Other Recommended Books:

- *Two Hours to Freedom* by Charles Kraft
- *Deliverance: A Journey Toward the Unexpected* by Jon Thompson

Podcast:



Stories from the Toolshed

Episode 3: Inner Healing



Everfree Podcasts hosted by Novo staff, Keith and Megan Peeler

Episode: Inner Healing and Deliverance Prayer Model

Episode: After Your First Prayer Appointment

Episodes: Interview with Kelsey Phillips, Cohort grad (Part 1 and 2)

Episode: Praying with Children - Inner Healing & Deliverance

Other Podcasts: links also available in our online learning platform

- *Spiritual Warfare - A Biblical Foundation* - Part 1 in a 7-part series on spiritual warfare from “Wild at Heart” featuring John Eldredge and his team
<https://link.novo.org/spiritual-warfare-Eldredge>
- *Warfare Part 2* - Part 2 in a 9-part series on spiritual warfare from “The Place We Find Ourselves” podcast featuring private practice therapist Adam Young
<https://link.novo.org/spiritual-warfare-Young>
- *185 – Healing Prayer: Your Path to Emotional Wholeness* - Mental health specialists and spiritual mentors, Bill & Kristi Gaultiere, share openly about their own individual journeys of emotional and relational healing and the abundant life that is available for each of us
<https://link.novo.org/healing-prayer-Gaultiere>

Articles in the Appendix for Module 3:

- *White Wall Exercise* by Novo staff, Keith and Megan Peeler - an inner healing tool to help someone visualize and release a deep wound yet give some emotional distance to the issue by imagining that issue outside of the body and mind
<https://www.everfree.us/white-wall>
- *Prayer After Care Exercises* - tips to help you process and hold on to your inner healing experience
- *Who am I in Christ?* - scripture verses to remind you of your true identity
- *A Prayer for Generational Sins, Spiritual Strongholds, Spirits, and Curses* - sample prayer for dealing with generational sin and its impact

04

MODULE

Royal Priesthood

PRAYER TOOL: PRIESTLY PRAYER

Our objectives for Module 4 - Royal Priesthood are that you:

1. Understand that you are a member of the Royal Priesthood (1 Pet. 2:9)
2. Understand the roles and responsibilities of a Royal Priest
3. Learn the priestly prayer model: declare your identity, apply the sacrifice, bind the enemy, and bless
4. Commit to do the work of the Royal Priest

Pre-Work

BEGIN LEARNING ABOUT THE ROYAL PRIESTHOOD

Reading:

This module's pre-reading is:

- Read through Numbers 16 three times, and pay attention to the roles Aaron played as the high priest. (It might be helpful to read it in different versions of the Bible.)

Additional recommended reading is:

- Chapters 1-3 of *The Grace Outpouring: Becoming a People of Blessing* by Roy Godwin & Dave Roberts

Reading Takeaways & Questions

In Numbers 16, what roles did Aaron play as the high priest?

From chapter 1 of *The Grace Outpouring*, what would you say it means to be a “grace first” person? Would you describe yourself that way? Why or why not?

Why did Godwin say priests were instructed to pronounce blessings? What was/is the result of speaking blessings that come from an encounter with God?



On p. 53, Roy states he heard God say, "Roy, if Ffald-y-brenin is going to become a house of prayer, first of all you must become a house of prayer yourself." What do you think it means for an individual to be a house of prayer (see chapter 3)?

Briefly describe what being a house of prayer looked like for Ffald-y-brenin (see chapter 3).

Session Notes

NOTES FROM THE PRESENTATION

"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light."

1 Peter 2:9



Priestly Prayer Model

1. Declare your identity
2. Apply the sacrifice
3. Bind the enemy
4. Bless

Royal Priesthood Lab

PRACTICE PRAYING THE PRIESTLY PRAYER

On your own:

- Review your Relationship Mapping tool and consider the places you spend the most time.

- Ask the Lord to highlight or show you which of those places he would like for you to start practicing this priestly prayer over the next few weeks.

- Circle the place you feel most drawn to pray for today.

- Using listening prayer, ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you the enemy's activity that is taking over that space. Which spirits need to be bound? Write those down. Remember, spirits are identified by the actions or emotions they cause. For example: greed, scarcity, fear, shame, division, hatred, etc.



- Using listening prayer, ask the Holy Spirit what needs to come in to replace those spirits. What he wants to bless that place with? Write that down.

With a partner:

Share what you have written down with your prayer partner

Pray the priestly prayer using the 4-part model.

1. Declare your identity
2. Apply the sacrifice
3. Bind the enemy
4. Bless

Experiments

DO THE WORK OF A ROYAL PRIEST

Your experiments this module are to practice being a royal priest at least four times.

- Ask God to show you an area where he wants you to practice using your Relationship Mapping tool.
- Do the work of the priest wherever God has shown you. Practice the 4-part model:
 1. Declare your identity
 2. Apply the sacrifice
 3. Bind the enemy
 4. Bless
- Each time you practice, note the area/situation/etc., the outcome, and anything you learned from the experiment (look for changes in you, in the environment, with people, with systems etc.).

Royal Priest Practice #1:

Royal Priest Practice #2:



Royal Priest Practice #3:

Royal Priest Practice #4:

Module 4 Meetup

DISCUSSION AND EXPERIMENTATION GUIDE FOR MEETING BETWEEN SESSIONS

Open in Prayer

Group Discussion (25 min)

Optional: Discuss this module's "Reading Takeaways and Questions"

Review Korah's Rebellion (Numbers 16 and also see the detailed presenter notes for this module in the online learning platform).

- Briefly go over each role (Moses, Aaron, priests from Levitical line—including Korah, community leaders, etc.).
- What was something new you learned or your biggest take-away from this passage?

Review the 4-part Priestly Prayer model (Declare your identity / Apply the sacrifice / Bind the enemy / Bless)

- Have members of your huddle give examples of something they could say for each part of the model to make sure there aren't any parts that are unclear.
- Discuss whether or not you've had an opportunity to try Priestly Prayer since the meeting.
 - If so, share stories of what happened. Did you see a shift in a system, place, or people? Did you feel comfortable using the model? Which parts do you want to grow in or refine your approach?
 - If not, over what, where, or whom is God calling you to step in as a royal priest (e.g., your kids' school, your place of work, etc.)? Do you feel comfortable using the model? What has God shown you to bind? How is God leading you to bless?



Experiment – Create a Priestly Prayer *(25 min)*

Break into triads and elect a scribe to take notes. *(1 minute)*

As a triad, spend a couple minutes in listening prayer asking God to reveal an issue, space, or person(s) he would like you to “stand in the gap” for. Discuss what you heard, and decide on which one you’ll pray for as a group. *(4 minutes)*

Discuss and have the scribe write down what you will pray for each section of the 4-part model. You may want to reference the Sample Prayers in the Appendix for examples. *(20 minutes)*

Group Discussion and Prayer *(20 min)*

Have each triad take turns reading their Priestly Prayer. Then the rest of the group can provide feedback (e.g., Was each part of the model covered? Is there anything you’d recommend changing or adding, and if so, why?).

After all the Priestly Prayers have been shared and feedback given, go back into your triads to adjust or add to what you wrote. Then have someone in the triad pray the prayer again.

If you still have time, choose one of the other issues, spaces, or persons your triad heard God reveal, and practice the Priestly Prayer model again but without writing it down this time.

Optional: Discuss next module’s “Reading Takeaways and Questions”

Close in Prayer

Additional Resources

BOOKS, ARTICLES, PODCASTS, & MORE

To learn more about the Royal Priesthood, check out these resources below.

Additional Chapters in Cohort Books:

- Chapter 9 (Authority Relationships) in *I Give You Authority* by Charles Kraft

Podcast:



Stories from the Toolshed

Episode 6: Priestly Prayer, pt 1

Episode 7: Priestly Prayer, pt 2

Sample Prayers:

- “Practicing the Priestly Prayer on Planes” by Novo staff, Keith Uebele (available in the Appendix for Module 4)
- “Two Priestly Prayers” by Cohort grad, Steve Kennedy (available in the Appendix for Module 4)
- “Prayer of Consecration” (Adapted from *Moving Mountains*, Chapter 8)
<https://wildatheart.org/prayer/prayer-consecration>

Other Articles in the Appendix for Module 4:

- “Adventures in Forgiveness” by Novo staff, Keith Uebele
- “Mind the Gap” by Cohort grad, Kelsey Phillips
- “Framework for Priestly Prayer” by Cohort Grad, Jonne Rasmussen



05

MODULE

Physical Healing

PRAYER TOOL: PHYSICAL HEALING PRAYER

Our objectives for Module 5 - Physical Healing are that you:

1. Appreciate why Novo has a focus on normalizing the supernatural
2. Learn why you can be confident in praying for supernatural healing today
3. Experience prayer for the Spirit within you to come upon you for Kingdom ministry
4. Discover how the question, “May I pray for you?” can serve to help reveal “people of peace”
5. Depart from the Cohort meeting equipped with a simple prayer tool that will help you engage in healing prayer with family, friends, and pre-believers

Pre-Work

BEGIN LEARNING ABOUT PHYSICAL HEALING

Reading:

This module's recommended reading is:

- Chapters 3-4 of *The Life Jesus Made Possible: Embracing the Kingdom Within our Reach* by Dr. Bill Randall, Novo staff

Reading Takeaways & Questions

Are there any old or new truths the Lord is highlighting to you as you read? If so, which ones?

What exactly is the Holy Spirit stirring in your heart as you read these chapters?



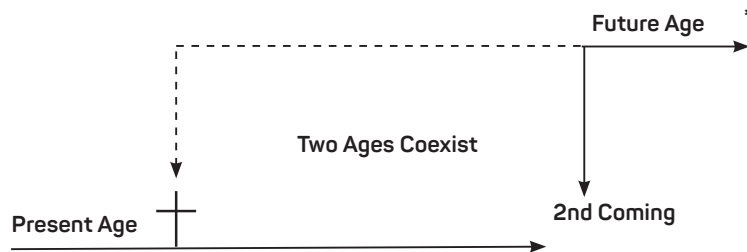
What have been your expectations regarding physical healing in the past? And what expectation do you hold now after reading chapter 4?

What is God prompting you to do today/this week through your reading?

Session Notes

NOTES FROM THE PRESENTATION

"When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is offered to you. Heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'" Luke 10:9



*Used with permission from *The Life Jesus Made Possible: Embracing the Kingdom Within our Reach* by Dr. Bill Randall



The Physical Healing Prayer Model *(Everyone – Everyday – Everywhere):*

- **Initiate** - “May I pray for you?”
- **Clarify** - “Where does it hurt?” “What would you like Jesus to do for you?”
- **Engage** - “Let’s pray!” (Be sure to experiment with declarative prayer)
- **Check in** - “How are you doing?” (Pray again as the Spirit leads)
- **Conclude** - Post-prayer encouragement; Seal and bless what God has done.

Physical Healing Lab

PRACTICE PRAYING FOR PHYSICAL HEALING

1. Identify who has a need for healing prayer in the room.
2. Spread those who need healing prayer throughout the room, then divvy up the rest of the group so there is at least one person to pray for each person desiring prayer.
3. If there are more than two people praying for someone, designate one person to take the lead for that round of prayer. During the time of prayer engagement, the others can join in (making sure to practice declarative prayer). The designated leader will determine when to transition to “Check in” and “Conclude.”
4. Use the Physical Healing Prayer Model to minister to those desiring prayer.
 - Initiate** - “May I pray for you?”
 - Clarify** - “Where does it hurt?” “What would you like Jesus to do for you?”
 - Engage** - “Let’s pray!” (be sure to practice declarative prayer)
 - Check in** - “How are you doing?” (pray again if necessary)
 - Conclude** - Post-prayer encouragement; seal and bless what God has done.
5. Now trade who will be designated to lead the next round of prayer with someone desiring healing prayer. Again, specifically use the Physical Healing Prayer Model.



Experiments

PRAY FOR PHYSICAL HEALING WITH OTHERS

Use the Physical Healing Prayer Model introduced at the Cohort meeting to pray for three different people suffering from a physical ailment. Please include at least two people who are part of your Relationship Mapping tool, including one who is not a part of your regular circle and may not yet be a follower of Jesus.

After you have prayed for three people, write a brief summary below of your experiences and include the following:

- Basic details (Who was prayed for, when, where, and who prayed with you?)
- What the person said to you when you checked in after praying (Did the person receive healing, a margin of healing, or no healing yet? Did they experience God's presence in some other way?)
- What you said in response to what they shared with you and what you did next
- A description of how you felt about the experience (i.e., Were you nervous? Could you feel God's presence?)
- What you learned from this experience of praying for physical healing (In retrospect, would you say or do something different if you had the same opportunity again? If yes, explain.)
- Where do you need or desire to grow? How can this Cohort help you in this way?

Person #1:



Person #2:

Person #3:

Module 5 Meetup

DISCUSSION AND EXPERIMENTATION GUIDE FOR MEETING BETWEEN SESSIONS

Open in Prayer

Group Discussion (20 min)

Optional: Discuss this module's "Reading Takeaways and Questions"

Read the 4 postures of supernatural expectation below:

1 Some would say *nothing* happens every time.

2 Others would say *everything* happens every time.

3 We would say that *everything* happens *some of the time*.

4 We would also say that *something* happens every time!

- We're all entering this journey at different places. Which posture would best describe where you're at currently, and where would you like to be?
- What do you need to do or experience to get to where you want to be?

Review the Physical Healing Prayer Model (Initiate, Clarify, Engage, Check-in, Conclude)

- Have members of your huddle give examples of something they could say for each part of the model to make sure there aren't any parts that are unclear.
- After seeing it done and practicing it during the session, are you comfortable with this model? If not, which parts are you uncomfortable with?



Have you had an opportunity to try physical healing prayer since the meeting? If so, what happened? If not, do you have anyone in mind that you'd like to try the model with, and what's your plan to connect and pray with this person?

Experiment *(25 min)*

See who in the group needs physical healing, and use the model to pray for those individuals. You might want to practice the model together first by assigning each part of the model to someone in the group (and maybe two people for Engage) and have them pray for one person in the group while others pray silently. Then, you can break into pairs or triads so that everyone who needs prayer can be prayed for and everyone can practice the model. It can be helpful to have someone be the facilitator to guide the group through the process.

Group Discussion *(20 min)*

Debrief the experiment time. What happened? Who experienced a full or some measure of healing? If healing didn't happen, did God do something else instead? Have people share what it was like to pray for someone and what it was like to be the one prayed for.

Remember, the experiment for the month is to use the Physical Healing Prayer Model to pray for three people – including one who is not a part of your regular circle and may not yet be a follower of Jesus. Discuss the following:

- Has the Holy Spirit led you to pray for anyone yet?
- How are you feeling about this assignment?

Use the Blessing in the Opposite Spirit model to spend some time blessing those who are feeling reluctant or apprehensive (e.g., if someone is fearful, bless them with boldness).

Optional: Discuss next module's "Reading Takeaways and Questions"

Close in Prayer

Additional Resources

BOOKS, ARTICLES, PODCASTS, & MORE

To learn more about Physical Healing, check out these resources below.

Additional Chapters in Cohort Books:

- Chapters 5-6 and 16 (Bold Authority, The Prayer of Intervention, & Physical Healing) in *Moving Mountains* by John Eldredge

Other Recommended Books:

- *Power Healing* by John Wimber

Podcast:



Stories from the Toolshed

Episode 4: Physical Healing

Episode 5: Physical Healing (Bonus Episode)

Videos:

- John Wimber on *5 Step Healing Prayer*
<https://link.novo.org/Wimber>
- Max Lucado video on *How Should I Pray to God for Healing?*
<https://link.novo.org/Lucado>

Theology of Suffering Resources:

These are helpful resources for when long-standing prayers remain unanswered or God doesn't heal (links also in online learning platform).

- Novo founder, Patty Metcalf's *Extended Prayer Without Seeing Answers* (available in Appendix for Module 5)



- Wild at Heart's *Finding God in Suffering* podcast
<https://link.novo.org/finding-god-in-suffering>
- Pete Greig's book, *God on Mute: Engaging the Silence of Unanswered Prayer*
- Bill & Kristi Gaultiere on *Healing Prayer: When God Does Not Heal*
<https://link.novo.org/when-god-does-not-heal>

06

MODULE

Reclaiming Spiritual Territory

PRAYER TOOL: PRAYER-WALKING

Our objectives for Module 6 - Reclaiming Spiritual Territory are that you:

1. Learn what your biblical identity is as caretaker of the land and as priest who reclaims territory through prayer
2. Understand how your biblical role as a priest affects your physical world as you begin to pray strategically
3. Gain insight into strongholds (both Kingdom and enemy) and how strategic prayer as a priest lays the groundwork for change in a person, neighborhood, and city
4. Discern where God might be inviting you to reclaim spiritual and physical territories around you
5. Equip yourself with prayer-walking tools to engage the world around you

Pre-Work

BEGIN LEARNING ABOUT RECLAIMING SPIRITUAL TERRITORY

This module's recommended reading is:

- Chapters 4-7 of *The Grace Outpouring: Becoming a People of Blessing* by Roy Godwin & Dave Roberts

Reading Takeaways & Questions

What did the Holy Spirit stir in your heart as you read chapter 4?

How would you describe your thoughts when you read about the astonishing events and manifestations of God in chapters 5 and 6 (e.g., skeptical, hopeful, etc.)?

Which do you find yourself seeking more: His face or His manifestations? What needs to change in you to seek His presence above all else?



Session Notes

NOTES FROM THE PRESENTATION

"Now go in and take it. It's the land God promised to give your ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and their children after them." Deuteronomy 1:8 (MSG)



Prayer-walking to reclaim territory:

1. Pray for personal covering
2. Take ownership
3. Observe the natural world
4. Listen/Ask
5. Weed - "Clear" the land of the influence of the enemy
6. Plant - Bless and build God's Kingdom culture

Reclaiming Spiritual Territory Lab

PRACTICE PRAYER-WALKING

Prayer-walking is an active type of prayer where you ask and listen for insight from God and then discover what he would like you to do about it. Prayer-walking is most effective when you are hearing what God has to say about your sphere of influence.

Think of prayer-walking like gardening in the land: we want to remove the things that prevent us from planting, then we want to plant good things to grow and flourish. The following outline is just a framework to get you started.

Go on a prayer-walk (20-30 min)

In your huddle, go on a prayer-walk around the place or area where you are currently meeting. Follow the steps below as you pray. If you can't physically go for a prayer-walk, have everyone open Google maps to that location and virtually walk the area. Each person can zoom-in on the map and stop at each house or building to pray for the people and place.

Pray for Personal Covering: Begin by asking God for protection and help.

- Ephesians 6:10-18
- Ask for angelic help

Take Ownership: Declare your responsibility for the land.

- "God, this is my _____ (or God this is our __). I/we take responsibility for it and will love this space and the people in it by praying here."

Observe the natural world: Use your senses and ask God to illuminate your supernatural gifts.

- What's going on around you?
- What do you feel? (Note feelings of peace or fear.)
- What do you see? Hear? Smell?
- What do you think about this place?



Listen/Ask: Engage your physical senses, and observe what's happening around you. Ask God for deeper insight into the spiritual realities of what's going on and listen for his responses.

- God, how do you see this place? (What's your heart for this land?)
- God, where are you at work in this place?
- God, help me discern the land. What do you want me to know?
- What shall I pray for?

Weed: Ask God for further insight as you begin to "clear" the land of the influence of the enemy. God may invite you to address defilements in the land.

- God, where has darkness prevailed?
- What is occupying this land?
- Apply the blood sacrifice of Jesus
- Ask God to remove evil
- Command / Bind the enemy

Plant: Bless and build God's Kingdom culture as you prayer-walk. We always have the right to do this in our spheres. See Jeremiah 1:10.

- Declare truth
- Bless / Loosen
- Preach the gospel to the land
- Worship
- Take communion

Return to your meeting place to debrief as a group

Experiments

PRAYER-WALKING YOUR RELATIONSHIP MAP WITH OTHERS

Your experiment is to do one or two prayer-walks with others based on spaces or places that you've identified from your Relationship Mapping tool. Spend some time in listening prayer together asking the Lord in which space or place he is calling you to prayer-walk.

Throughout the Cohort experience, you've used your Relationship Mapping tool many times. Reflect on these questions:

- Where has God frequently called you?
- Who has he drawn your heart towards?
- Have you found yourself drawn to the same people and places multiple times?
- Has your longing for certain places or people changed?

Discuss your answers to these questions with others in your huddle, and choose 1-2 places where you all can practice prayer-walking.

Go on two prayer-walks:

Using the prayer model provided, go on two 30-60 minute prayer-walks. Ask someone from your huddle or a friend or family member to go with you.* If your prayer-walking partner is someone from the Cohort, do one prayer-walk in your identified context and one in theirs.

** **NOTE:** It's best to prayer-walk with a partner, especially as you learn how to discern what's going on in the land. Often, when we go out in pairs, God speaks to both people, and the similarity of what each person is discerning affirms that it is from God and confirms what each person is sensing in the supernatural. Also, we often feel more confident to confront the dominion of darkness when we have a companion. If you don't have a partner, however, don't hesitate to prayer-walk. Ask God how he would like you to focus your time, and ask him to give you confidence and discernment on how to wisely confront darkness.*



Write a brief summary below of your prayer-walking experiences, and include the following:

- Did anything change in you when you prayed for personal covering and declared your responsibility for the land?
- What types of things did you observe in the natural world?
- What did you hear from God about the spiritual realities going on where you prayer-walked?
- What did you weed? And what did you plant?

Prayer-Walk #1:

Prayer-Walk #2:

Module 6 Meetup

DISCUSSION AND EXPERIMENTATION GUIDE FOR MEETING BETWEEN SESSIONS

Open in Prayer

Group Discussion (25 min)

Optional: Discuss this module's "Reading Takeaways and Questions"

Debrief your experience prayer-walking during the lab time and/or experiments, discussing which steps felt natural or more challenging to you. Before moving on, schedule another time to prayer walk (either with huddle members, or alone) and share your plan with someone in your huddle. Ask them to follow up with you for further accountability and to continue debriefing your experimentation with prayer-walking.

Commissioning and Communion:

Take some time to share some take-aways from the Cohort journey, and celebrate what God has done in your huddle! If you have not yet completed the Cohort survey, take time to do that as a group!

Take turns sharing your Relationship Maps and anything you've been hearing about your relationships or contexts.

After each person shares, have someone else bless them as they listen for a Kingdom assignment and step out in obedience.

Spend some time remembering what God has been doing in in this season by taking communion together. We want to spend some time remembering what God has been doing in us and through us by taking communion together right now. Taking communion is completely optional, so if your huddle doesn't want to or isn't able to, that's completely fine. You can just spend some time thinking about what God's been up to in and through you, and speak praises out loud to God for those things (or use that time however you want). After you've finished the communion or praise time, your huddle Leaders will bless your group.



Additional Resources

BOOKS, ARTICLES, PODCASTS, & MORE

To learn more about the Reclaiming Spiritual Territory, check out these resources below.

Additional Chapters in Cohort Books:

- Chapter 7 in *I Give You Authority* by Charles Kraft

Other Books

- *Authority to Tread* by Rebecca Greenwood
- *Prayer Walking for Spiritual Breakthrough* by George McVey
- *Tradecraft: For the Church on Mission* (2nd edition) by Caleb Cridern, Larry E. McCrary, Rodney Calfee, and Wade Stephens

Podcast:



Stories from the Toolshed

Episode 8: Reclaiming Territory through Prayer-Walking

Other Articles

- “Let’s Try Prayer Walking” by C’havala Crawley, Novo staff
<https://link.novo.org/try-prayer-walking>

Articles in the Appendix for Module 6:

- “Caretakers in the Land: A Prayer-Walking Guide” by Johanna Lohrmann, Novo staff
- “Spiritual Warfare” by Myra Perrine, Novo staff
- “The Armor of God” by Bill Randall, Novo staff



YOU DID IT

Empowered Disciple,

You did it! You finished the Spiritual Authority Cohorts. Our prayer is that you have been awakened to the spiritual authority that has been freely given to you in Christ, you are empowered to pray with expectation, and you have now identified and begun to partner with God's work around you.

You now have the same prayer tools that our missionaries have across the world! Your spiritual authority toolbox is full of what we call **Activating Prayer tools** that will empower you for the mission Jesus has for you in your relationships and contexts.

Now, follow Him into the world where He is already at work, and continue experimenting in your spheres of influence.

The journey has just begun!

Blessings,
Novo Cohort Team

APPENDIX

Declarative Prayer in Scripture

BY PATTY METCALF, NOVO FOUNDER

Declare: to pronounce or assert; to openly align oneself for or against something

Declaration (confession) comes from Latin word “to make quite clear” - a formal or explicit statement or announcement. For example, “The President has declared this to be a holiday” (speaking with authority behind our words).

Declarative prayer is PRONOUNCING something to be TRUE, ACCURATE, and REAL.

One of the main “methods” Jesus and the apostles used in the gospels and Acts was to SPEAK TO things. They declared things to be so. You will notice that in New Testament they did not ask God to heal people, to cast out demons, or to raise the dead, but they usually spoke directly to bodies, to demons, to the wind, etc. Jesus encouraged us to speak to mountains in Mark 11:22-25.

God SPOKE the world into existence. Jesus DECLARED things, SPOKE words to make things happen:

Lazarus come forth!

To the wind and waves: Peace be still.

Be healed.

He cursed the fig tree, and it died.

Based on understanding our authority in Christ

We might say, “Well yeah, but this was Jesus and the apostles. I’m just little old me. Jesus I can maybe understand, although he says ‘greater works than these shall you do because I go to the Father’” (because they wouldn’t receive the Holy Spirit until Jesus left).

Jesus was our model in ministry; he operated in the power of the same Holy Spirit we have.

Jesus emptied himself, taking the form of a servant when he came to earth (Phil 2:7) – he wanted to model life for us and knew that wouldn’t happen if he were operating as GOD with special powers, which were not available to us.

The disciples SAW how he worked and copied him. We are to do the same.



There is life and death in the power of the tongue. There is great power in our words – for good and for evil.

So – declarative prayer is basically aligning yourself with God’s desires and SPEAKING OR DECLARING the Truth over the person or situation.

What does he say in scripture about certain things:

He wants all men to be saved.

His stripes have made us whole.

Prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well.

My God shall supply every need of yours in Christ Jesus.

If any of you lacks wisdom let him ask of God...

He desires our holiness, sanctification...

He who is in us is greater than he who is in the world...

So we can pray his will with confidence – the key is aligning our heart with God’s and praying his will. Speak his word over situations and people.

Other Examples:

- **Time of discernment:** *I pray clarity over you. I pray truth. I pray discernment, that God would anoint your ears and heart to hear from him. (Rom. 8:26)*
- **Over your house:** *If you want to attack my wife, children, their spouses or our grandchildren, you must go through me, because I am the gateway into this family. But on the authority of Jesus Christ, you will not get through me. (Kraft, I Give You Authority p. 61)*
- **Over myself:** *In the name of Jesus, anything that is not of you has no rights to be attached to me. I claim you as the light of the world. I pray peace, truth, and joy over myself today. (Rom. 14:17)*

Don’t get hung up on this – but begin to experiment with another way of praying and see what happens as you do.

15 Characteristics of Spiritual Authority

BY NOVO STAFF D. MICHAEL CROW, PH.D., EXCERPTED FROM CHARLES KRAFT
AND ADAPTED BY STEVE HOKE, NOVO STAFF

The Apostle Paul articulates these characteristics of spiritual authority in the passage beginning with II Corinthians 10:8 and concluding with II Cor 13:10, while defending his own apostolic authority. In his introduction, he speaks of “the authority God has given me—authority to build up, not to tear down.” In short, Paul seeks to exercise considerable authority with a large amount of gentleness and love (II Cor 12:12). Paul grounds his discussion in a context of spiritual warfare, affirming that every human event and interaction, even a disciplinary problem, has an important spiritual dimension. Our weapons are not worldly or secular ones. They are “God’s powerful weapons, which we use to destroy strongholds...false arguments...and every obstacle that is raised against the knowledge of God” (II Cor 10:4).

- 1. Spiritual authority has a territorial dimension.** Paul asserts his authority in II Corinthians 10:12-18 over an area he believes God has assigned him—an area that includes Corinth. This precedent has led to the suggestion by Peter Wagner, Frank Peretti and others that there are evil “territorial spirits” of the enemy who exert influence over certain geographical areas in the world (Daniel 10:13) in direct evil opposition to the rule and dominion of the Spirit of God in that area.
- 2. Spiritual authority flows from a burden and passion to see a love relationship between those served and Christ** (II Cor. 11:1-6). With experience and maturity, the Holy Spirit fires our ministry passion in clarity and intensity. When passion cools, the Spirit longs to refire it with “fresh wind and fresh fire.”
- 3. Spiritual authority is grounded in a substantial knowledge of God and an intimate awareness of His activities in the human sphere** (11:6). Powerful ministry flows out of “being” in an increasingly intimate relationship with Abba. The greater the intimacy, the greater the potential for power.
- 4. Spiritual authority is exercised in humility as a servant and must operate without being tied to payment.** Paul exercises his authority as a servant without charging the Corinthians (11:7-12) or anyone else. The supernatural flow of the Spirit is not to be harnessed by human mechanisms.



5. **Spiritual authority involves an uncompromising opposition to charlatans and imposters**—those who masquerade as true Christian leaders but who teach lies (11:13-15). The Spirit longs to give us increasing prophetic insight and clarity into how to pray and minister to needy people.
6. **Spiritual authority serves even to the extent of readily sacrificing and suffering** (11:16-33). Paul, in exercising the authority God gave him, has endured incredible hardship on behalf of those he has ministered to mostly at the hands of those who oppose him. In fact, greater power is released through suffering than in comfort and ease.
7. **Spiritual authority involves direct revelation from God** (12:1-6). Paul was taken up to “the highest heaven” and heard things that cannot be put into words, things that human lips may not speak.” This speaks of the authority that derives from the sword of the Spirit—the Word that God speaks to specific people in specific situations today by His Spirit.
8. **Spiritual authority is exercised in weakness and ordinariness**, even with God-allowed satanic reminders to keep us humble. In 12:6-19 Paul speaks of his weaknesses and of the painful physical ailment (vs 7, or “thorn in the flesh” (KJV), that God has allowed “as Satan’s messenger to be me and keep me from being proud.”
9. **Spiritual authority is authenticated through the operation of spiritual gifts** (12:12). Spiritual gifts are simply where the power of God rises up in us. Paul points to signs and wonders as proving his apostolic authority—a confirmation that his power from God is supernatural, not human.
10. **Spiritual authority is ready and able to rebuke and discipline those who persist in disobedience** (13:1-2). One key indicator of the filling of the Spirit in believers in Acts—and today—is holy boldness for witness. True spiritual authority equips servants to discern what is wrong in a situation and bring God’s word to bear when sin and disobedience have emerged.
11. **Spiritual authority can be tested** by checking the presence and activity of Christ in those who have responded to the message presented by the one who claims that authority (13:5-6).
12. Implied in the passage is the fact that **spiritual authority is not contingent on a given**

personality or any one, singular spiritual gift. Spiritual gifts often tap into the natural abilities a person possesses and super-charge them but are never constrained by the limits of personality.

13. Neither is spiritual authority contingent on anyone's ability to preach or communicate in other ways. Spiritual authority precedes these natural abilities or learned skills, acting as a life-giver to these means but not restricted by whether or not one is a gifted communicator. Rather, when a person is teaching or preaching is there evidence of supernatural spiritual authority?

14. True spiritual authority affirms rather than puts down others, encouraging them to operate in all the gifting and authority that God has given them. Spiritual authority and the exercise of all the gifts operate best in a context of body life unity nourished by the practice of the "one another" commands.

15. Spiritual authority can be exercised in a multitude of unique ways. Rather than being something we merely "do," spiritual authority is grounded in and exercised out of a person's very being. The striking examples of Jesus, Barnabas and Paul demonstrate this reality.

*D. Michael Crow articulated these 15 characteristics of spiritual authority in 1996 as part of his Ph.D. research on "Spiritual Authority across Cultures" at Fuller Theological Seminary: School of Intercultural Studies. They are summarized in this list published by Charles H. Kraft in *Give You Authority: Practicing the Authority Jesus Gave Us* (Chosen Books, 1997, 2012; 113-115). Michael has been serving as a cross-cultural trainer and mentor in Southeast Asia and in East Asia since 1980. He and his wife, Katie, have served with Novo since 1999.



Identity Statements: WHO WE ARE

BY CHUCK KRAFT, ADAPTED BY STEVE HOKE, NOVO STAFF

If we are to live and minister effectively for Christ, we need to know who we are and what it means to be who we are. Dr. Charles Kraft articulates the following eight biblical insights that are true about us as Christ followers.

1. We were intended for second place.

We are created “only a little lower than God” (Psalm 8:5 NLT), in the image of God himself (Genesis 1:26). Our position at creation was far above all created beings—including the angels—in second place in the universe.

2. We are redeemed.

Although in Adam we gave it all away, God has stepped in and redeemed us. God made it possible through Jesus, the second Adam (I Corinthians 15:45-47), for us to be reestablished in our rightful position just under God, on the basis of our faith. We—not the angels—are his Masterpieces.

3. We are children of God.

For those of us who have committed ourselves to Christ, John writes, “See how much the Father has loved us! His love is so great that we are called God’s children—and so, in fact, we are” (I John 3:1; I Corinthians 6:18). As God’s beloved children (John 1:12), we inherit the glory of God with Christ (Romans 8:17; Galatians 4:7). God has chosen us, adopted us, even (Ephesians 1:4) to be part of his family.

4. We have the Holy Spirit and we host his presence.

As family members, God gives us the Holy Spirit to live within us (Ezekiel 36:37; John 14:17), bringing with him power (Acts 1:8), gifting (I Cor 12:10, fruit (Galatians 5:22-23), and the very presence of God permanently. Within us lives God Himself, the Creator and Sustainer of the universe. We know that this is our Father’s world, even though Satan has control of it for the present (I John 5:19).

5. We are united with God.

In Jesus, God has united with us for eternity (John 15:4-5; Romans 8:9-11). He could not have united with an angel or animal, only with one who bears his image. So, God in Christ Jesus joined himself to us, forever becoming the union between Creator and



creature (Romans 6:5; Ephesians 1:10).

6. We are children of the King.

This is our true identity, giving us special rights and privileges with our famous Father. We have special permission as his princes and princesses to come boldly and confidently into the King's presence at any time (Hebrews 4:16). And we call him Abba, our dad (Romans 8:15-19; Galatians 4:6-7). In that unique relationship we are safe, known and loved, and wealthy beyond imagination.

7. We are entrusted with divine authority.

By God's grace, Jesus actually trusts us, just as He forgave and trusted the adulteress (John 8:1-11), and forgave, reinstated, and trusted Peter (John 21:15-19). When Jesus ascended, He entrusted us with the Holy Spirit, predicting that we who believe in Him "will do what I do—yes, they will do even greater things" (John 14:12). It is therefore our Kingdom as well as His (Luke 12:32; 22:29-30). In the spiritual realm we carry the same authority as God's princes and princesses. We have "every spiritual blessing in the heavenly world" available to us (Ephesians 1:3).

8. We are inseparable from our spiritual authority.

Our authority is recognized by God and by the enemy as flowing from our very beings! It is the activity of God which occurs in and through a person's life, not simply because of their position or competency. It is the operation of the Spirit of God which emanates out of a leader's personality, learned skills, gifting, character and intimacy before God, and influences others toward a similar commitment to the purposes of God.

Adapted by Steve Hoke from Charles H. Kraft *I Give You Authority: Practicing the Authority Jesus Gave Us*. Chosen Books, 1979, Rev. Ed. 2012; 44-48.

Blessings for Children

INSPIRED BY PRISCILLA SHIRER, ADAPTED BY JONNE RASMUSSEN, COHORT GRAD

A Boy's Blessing

You are a precious son of our Abba Father.

You are a son of the King, and have the favor and authority that comes with being a son of the King.

You are redeemed by the blood of Jesus, who delights in you and rejoices over you with singing.

You are a man of integrity, character, and honesty.

You are a man who purposefully pursues purity in mind and in body.

You always fight for the underdog and compassion is one of your greatest giftings.

You will love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your strength.

You will put on the full armor of God so that you can stand firm against the schemes of the devil.

You are the head. You are not the tail.

You are above. You are not beneath.

You are a leader. You are not a follower.

You have the mind of Christ because the Spirit of God lives within you.

You are not made to fit in with the crowd - never have been, never will be. You are different and set apart.

You will bless the Lord at all times and his praises will be in your mouth.

And you can do all things through Christ who strengthens you.

A Girl's Blessing

You are a precious daughter of our Abba Father.

You are a daughter of the King, and have the favor and authority that comes with being a daughter of the King.

You are redeemed by the blood of Jesus, who delights in you and rejoices over you with singing.

You are a woman of compassion, loyalty, and fearlessness.

You will love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

You will put on the full armor of God so that you can stand firm against the schemes of the devil.

You have unique gifts and a purpose to use them on this Earth - you will not compare your gifts to others, but fix your eyes on Jesus.

You are a hope-bearer.

You see the world through a beautiful lens that sees God's beauty in all created things.

You have the mind of Christ because the Spirit of God lives within you.

You are not made to fit in with the crowd - never have been, never will be. You are different and set apart.

You will bless the Lord at all times and his praises will be in your mouth.

And you can do all things through Christ who strengthens you.



5 Reasons Why God Speaks

BY MARK THRASH, NOVO PRESIDENT

My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. - John 10:27

When I hear people in discussions about hearing from God, it's usually surrounding discernment and decision-making. It's a natural place to experiment with hearing God, because many times we are in a place where we are desperately looking for wisdom, which is how it began for me. However, I actually think that is only one of five reasons God speaks to us, and it's actually the least important.

All of us have undoubtedly heard someone use the "God card" by saying that they heard from God and He's leading them a certain way. This leading might feel questionable to us, but what can you say to a person since they said, "God told me." When people use the "God card" this way, it can make us skeptical to the reality that God really speaks. In turn, it makes us overly cautious of doing the same thing. So instead of seeking to hear from God more, we subconsciously do it less. But, if we take a more holistic perspective on why God speaks, some of that skepticism melts away because we realize that hearing from God during times of decision-making is only a very small piece of the puzzle.

Here are five reasons why I believe God speaks to us, and I have listed them in their order of significance:

1. Relationship and Intimacy
2. Transformation, Healing, and Wholeness
3. Ministry to Others
4. Kingdom Assignments
5. Discernment in Decisions

Relationship and Intimacy

I think we all believe that having a relationship with God is pretty important to the Christian faith. Yet, if we can't have two-way interaction with the Trinity, do we actually have a relationship with God? I know that's a pretty pointed question, but I think it's important. For me, when I discovered that hearing from God was possible, I realized I actually didn't have a relationship with God. I loved Him, had given Him my life, and served Him with all my strength, which are good things, but they didn't result in an intimate, two-way interactive relationship. And you know why I was missing out on that kind of relationship? I didn't know it was possible. Then a friend showed me how, and after I entered in, everything changed.



Transformation, Healing, and Wholeness

Once your relationship is established with God and your intimacy is growing, you've created incredibly fertile ground for the Trinity to move in and bring new life. For me it has always been gentle but powerful. I've had times when God spoke specific things to me that brought incredible transformation. We all know Jesus said the Holy Spirit is "the Spirit of Truth," but have you ever thought about how the Spirit of Truth operates? The Holy Spirit could just break in and reveal a blind spot, show us a wound, or root out sin any time He wants, but it makes more sense that he does that in the context of relationship. Plus, it seems pretty consistent in Scripture that God responds to our desires and requests. While the Holy Spirit could force His way into places in our hearts and souls that need healing, I think the majority of the time He waits until He is invited.

Ministry to Others

This is when it gets fun. Have you ever been with somebody, listened to God on their behalf, and then blessed them with what you heard? Maybe we offer it tentatively—not a "thus sayeth the Lord" kind of thing—but I can't tell you how many times, when I've listened on somebody's behalf and offered what I heard tentatively, I've seen God minister deeply to them. This is especially fun in teams when multiple people are hearing similar things for one person, bringing incredible confirmation to them.

And just think about what happens when I listen to God on someone's behalf, and God ministers to them. In that moment, the person feels seen, known, and loved by God beyond "head knowledge." God has reached out and loved them tangibly, causing their faith and belief that God speaks to them to increase, which then has the potential to lead to deeper intimacy with Jesus.

I don't always hear something "life shattering" when I pray for someone, but even if what I share doesn't fully resonate with them, they are still blessed by the love they've been shown. And I'm praying a lot more for people now, because I'm expectant that God will speak since I've seen Him do it so many times.

Kingdom Assignments

If we are sons and daughters of the King, and the Kingdom is now present but not fully here, and if part of God's plan for redemption is to partner with us to bring the Kingdom more fully to earth as it is in heaven, then you have a Kingdom assignment waiting for you!!! Isn't that amazing news? This is part of the Good News, my friends, that Aslan is going to use you just like he used Peter and Lucy to usher in more of the Kingdom by restoring things to how they were meant to be!

For me, I'm still learning how to live out this assignment, which I think can happen on many levels—from a life calling to moment-by-moment interaction. All I know is that as a follower of Jesus who is led by His Spirit, I'm a child of God, a son of the King. And I'm also God's workmanship; He has created good works in advance for me to step into. But—and this is a huge but—I am not just going to run into these good works randomly; I have to be looking for them. I have to be in relationship with Aslan, listening, discerning, and always ready for Him to give me an assignment.

Discernment in Decisions

Again, I think this is the category we usually consider when we contemplate hearing from God. It's an important aspect of our lives with God, and I believe we should "discern instead of decide" when it comes to decision-making. But this is only one of the reasons God speaks.

Take some time to consider the following:

1. As you read through these five reasons God speaks to His children, which one drew you in? Which one do you most long to experience in your life?
2. What is your biggest fear or barrier to stepping into an interactive relationship with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit? Write it down. Then sit in a quiet place, imagine yourself in a peaceful setting, and picture Jesus next to you. Once you see that in your mind's eye, talk to Jesus about this fear or barrier, and listen to what He has to say. Remember His promise: *My sheep hear My voice, and I know them.*



Additional Examples of God Speaking from Scripture

God is a speaking God:

Gen. 22:18 - *In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed **My voice**.*

Ex. 19:5 - *Now then, if you will indeed obey **My voice** and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine.*

Num. 14:22 - *Surely all these men have seen My glory and My signs which I performed in Egypt and in the wilderness, yet have put Me to the test these ten times and have not listened to **My voice**.*

I Chron 14:10, 14-15 - *David inquired of God, saying, "Shall I go up against the Philistines? Will You deliver them into my hand?" And **the Lord said**, "Go up, for I will deliver them into your hand..." David inquired again and **God said**, "Do not attack them straight on. Instead, circle around and attack them near the balsam trees..." So David did what **God said**, and struck down the Philistines all the way to Gezer.*

Psalms 85:8 (NLT) - *I listen carefully to what God the Lord is saying, for **He speaks** peace to His people, His faithful ones. But let them not return to their foolish ways.*

Isa. 30:21 - *Your ears will hear a word behind you **saying**, "This is the way, walk in it," whenever you turn to the right or to the left.*

Jer. 7:23 - *Obey **My voice**, and I will be your God, and you will be My people; and you will walk in all that I command you that it may be well with you.*

Ezek. 10:5 - *The sound of the wings of the cherubim was heard as far as the outer court, like the **voice of God** Almighty when He speaks.*

Hosea 2:14 - *Therefore I am now going to allure my people, leading them into the desert **to speak tenderly** to them there.*



Hab. 2:1-2 - I will keep watch to see what He will **speak** to me and how I may reply when I am reproved. Then the LORD answered and **said**, "Record the vision and inscribe it on tablets..."

John 1:1 - In the beginning was the **Word**, and the Word was with God, and the **Word was God**.

John 5:30 - I can do nothing on My own initiative. As **I hear**, I judge; and My judgment is just, because I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.

Rev. 3:20 - Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone **hears My voice** and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me.

John 10:3-5 - My sheep **hear my voice**.

Ezekiel 4:5 - Son of man, mark well, see with your eyes, and hear with your ears all that I **shall tell** you.

Amos 4:13 - He who forms the mountains, who creates the wind, and who **reveals his thoughts** to mankind.

John 6:45 - It is written in the prophets, "And they shall all be taught by God." Therefore everyone who has **heard** and learned from the Father comes to Me.

Psalms 40:6-8 - Sacrifice and offering You did not desire but **my ears** you have opened. Burnt offerings and sin offerings You did not require. I desire to do Your will, my God; Your law is within my heart.

John 7:16-18 - Jesus answered, "My teaching is not my own. It comes from the one who sent me. Anyone who chooses to do the will of God will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own. Whoever speaks on their own does so to gain personal glory, but he who seeks the glory of the One who sent him is a man of truth; there is nothing false about him."

John 5:30-33 - I can't do a solitary thing on my own: **I listen**, and then I decide. You can trust my decision because I'm not out to get my own way but only to carry out orders. (The Message)

Isa 50:4 - The Lord God has given me the tongue of those who are taught that I might know how to sustain with a word him who is weary. Morning by morning He wakens, He wakens my **ear to hear** as those who are taught and I was not rebellious, I turned not backward.

Example of King David:

1 Chron. 14:9 - The Philistines went and made a raid... and David inquired of God, saying "Shall I go up against the Philistines? Will you deliver them into my hand?" **The Lord said to him**, "Go

up, for I will deliver them into your hand.” So they went up...and David defeated them there. Then David said, “God has broken through my enemies by my hand lie a breakthrough of water.”

Examples of Jesus:

John 12:49 (NIV) – *“For I did not speak of my own accord, but the father who sent me commanded me what **to say** and how to say it.”*

John 8:28 (NIV) – *“I do nothing on my own but **speak** just what the Father has taught me.”*

The Indwelling Voice of the Holy Spirit:

John 16:12-14 (NIV) – *“I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all truth. He will not **speak** on His own; He will speak only what He hears, and He will **tell** you what is yet to come. He will bring glory to me by taking from what is Mine and making it known to you.”*



Discerning God's Will

COMPILED BY DR. MYRA PERRINE AND STEVE HOKE, NOVO STAFF

Discerning God's will in decision-making is the capacity to see and respond to the presence and activity of God, then make decisions in response to that awareness. During this process, we are intentionally listening and pursuing God's will instead of following our own thoughts, relying on our personal insights, whatever seems best according to our own thinking and planning. The apostle Paul tells us to be transformed by the renewing of our minds *so that* we can discern what the will of God is, that which is good, acceptable and perfect (Rom. 12:2).

Discernment opens us to the reality of the wisdom of God that is beyond human reasoning and is available only from God Himself (1 Cor. 2:6-16). This process presents unique challenges because it requires us to move beyond reliance upon human thinking and strategizing to a place of deep listening and responsiveness to God's Spirit. We do not dismiss human wisdom and strategic thinking (since our ability to think and apply reason in decision-making is a gift from God). However, the Scriptures are clear that human wisdom and the wisdom of God are not one and the same, thus part of discernment involves the ability to distinguish between the two (1 Cor. 1:18-31).

One thing to note about the will of God is that it is not a bulls-eye that must be hit with each and every decision, but rather a spacious meadow that we are invited to live in, explore, and enjoy. This meadow is contained within the fence of God's sovereign will, and as long as we are inside the meadow, all is well. We are free to roam, graze, bound, romp, scamper, nap, etc., because much of life is lived in this place of freedom. However, there are times (quite possibly more than we realize) when God invites us to a particular place within the meadow where His will uniquely conforms us into the person He created us to be, and to find this requires we learn to listen and discern the movement of His Spirit in our lives.¹ Sometimes when making a decision, like a scale, we can hold up both our hands, put a decisions in each one, then see which hand feels weightier.

The challenge of discernment is that it may at times appear to be somewhat subjective and even mystical. One requirement is that we arrive at a place of 'indifference' where one's heart holds its desires before God and chooses to live more attached to the Lord than to any

¹ Larry Warner, *Discernment: A Way of Life*, quote taken from *Decision Making and the Will of God*, by Gary Friesen.



aspiration of the heart. Ignatius of Loyola painted the picture of indifference as a “balanced scale,” stating that freedom comes when “I eventually [am] able to recognize the still point of my internal mechanism, the point at which the two scales rest motionless.”² In this place—this indifference—we experience God’s peace and freedom and indeed find union with Him because our love for Him and trust in Him is paramount.

Over time as we practice this kind of discernment, a maturity grows that allows “God’s will [to be] my will in the core of my being.”³ The ultimate end is that the two wills, God’s and mine, become one: what I desire has become what God desires, and vice versa, because my deepest desire has consistently become *Him*.⁴ Ignatius taught that we arrive at this place of freedom—indifference, even detachment—only by having a stronger attachment to the living presence of Christ and God’s deepening life in us:

“We were created to praise, reverence and serve God, our Lord, and by this means to experience salvation. All things on earth are created for us and to help us praise, reverence and serve God. We are to use them as much as they help us in this praise, reverence and service, and ought to rid ourselves of anything that hinders our praise, reverence and service to God. For this it is necessary that we become indifferent to all created things so that, on our part, we want not health rather than sickness, riches rather than poverty, honor rather than dishonor, long rather than short life, and so in all the rest, desiring and choosing only what helps us praise, reverence and serve God. Because this detachment comes only if we have a stronger attachment, our one dominating desire and fundamental choice must be to constantly live in the living presence and wisdom of Christ, our Savior.

“God loves us and wants us to share life with Him forever. Our love response takes shape in our praise and honor and service of the God of our life. All the things in this world are created because of God’s love and they become a context of His gifts, presented to us so that we can know God more easily and return His love more readily. As a result, we show reverence for all the gifts of creation. . . . But if we abuse any . . . or take them as the center of our lives, we break our relationship with God and hinder our growth as loving persons... We

2 Pierre Wolff, *Discernment: The Art of Choosing Well*, 63.

3 Wolff, 114.

4 Ignatius of Loyola’s “Principle and Foundation”.

must hold ourselves in balance so that our greatest desire and choice would be this: I want and choose what better leads to God's deepening life in me."⁵

(Myra's modern-day interpretation: "We were created to be loved by God and, being fully loved, to love God in return. From this relationship comes a life of praise, reverence, and service to Jesus our Lord. By God's grace we experience the free gift of salvation that He has so wondrously bestowed upon us, having created all things for us to use in our lives of loving, praising, reverencing, and serving Him. Yet, by His grace, nothing created need ever hinder us from the Creator Himself. In fact, we will turn away from and rid ourselves of any over-attachment to created things that may try to take His place in our hearts. We will even become "indifferent" to them so that—in whatever state we find ourselves, either temporarily or longer—we allow nothing and no condition (neither health nor sickness, riches nor poverty, honor nor dishonor, long nor short life) to separate us from our highest calling, which is to be loved by God and love God in return. This detachment only comes as we build a stronger attachment to Him and daily abide in His living presence and wisdom. The Lord alone is worthy to be the center of our lives as we grow in our relationship with Him as loving persons. Thus, daily, by His grace, we choose His deepening life in us above all else.")⁶

Listening with indifference in decision-making happens when we have gained freedom from our over-attachment to things, our own egos, and having our own way. We ask God for the grace to detach from matters of pride, prestige, organizational politics, personal opinion, our own advantage, preference, or ownership. This may seem to be counter-intuitive because it may go against the vision/mission God has given us, but as we put ourselves in a position to be led by Christ, detaching from the outcome allows us to discern how God is leading us for the good of all. Because indifference in discernment is something God does in us rather than something we can make happen, it allows us to hold our own agenda with an open hand because our highest value is loving God above all else.⁷

5 Ignatius of Loyola's "Principle and Foundation" (handout in Catherine Gregg's class in Ignatian Spirituality, July 2002, Azusa Pacific University).

6 Dr. Myra Perrine's interpretation of Ignatius of Loyola's, "Principle and Foundation" in modern day language.

7 Ruth Haley Barton, *Pursuing God's Will Together*, 188-189.



White Wall Exercise

CREATED BY KEITH & MEGAN PEELER, NOVO STAFF

When used during an Inner Healing prayer time, this tool can be used to help someone visualize and release a deep wound. The purpose is to give some emotional distance to the issue by imagining that issue outside of the body and mind.

This tool can be used to address a specific issue (anger, fear, abuse, etc.) or for the healing of a relationship. Once a particular issue or person has been identified for inner healing in the prayer process, then you may utilize this tool to help the person address the issue or person.

Steps for the White Wall prayer tool addressing an ISSUE:

1. Ask the participant if it is ok to try a prayer experiment
2. Ask them if they have ever been to an art gallery
3. Ask them if they can imagine a BLANK WHITE art gallery wall
4. Ask them to imagine a picture or word that represents the issue that needs healing
5. Ask them to place that image or word on the White Wall
6. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to take every memory, event, and person connected to that issue and place it on the wall
7. Ask the participant if they can see or imagine those things going onto the wall
8. Tell the participant that you will continue to pray silently until all of the memories, events, and people are placed on the wall .Ask the participant to let you know when everything is on the wall
9. Ask Jesus to come and stand next to the participant as they are observing the WHITE WALL
10. Ask the participant, "What does Jesus want to show you about everything on that wall?"

Having a prayer partner that can act as a scribe to write down the feedback can be very helpful. As the participant is sharing what they are seeing, the scribe can keep track of writing it down for them in order to go back to the images later. It may also be helpful to make an audio recording of the prayer time on the participants' cell phone.



Steps for the White Wall prayer tool addressing a PERSON:

1. Ask the participant if it is ok to try a prayer experiment
2. Ask them if they have ever been to an art gallery
3. Ask them if they can imagine a BLANK WHITE art gallery wall
4. Ask them to imagine a picture or portrait of the person they are struggling with
5. Ask them to place that picture or portrait on the White Wall
6. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to take every memory, event, and issue connected to that person and place it on the wall
7. Ask the participant if they can see or imagine those feelings and memories of that person going onto the White Wall
8. Tell the participant that you will continue to pray silently until all of the feelings and memories are placed on the wall Ask the participant to let you know when everything is on the wall
9. Ask Jesus to come and stand next to the participant as they are observing the WHITE WALL
10. Ask the participant, "What does Jesus want to show you about everything on that wall?"

Prayer After Care Exercises

PROCESS YOUR EXPERIENCE

Begin by capturing your story of inner healing in a way that makes sense to you through writing, note taking, and additional time spent with God. Below are suggestions for helping write the story of your healing prayer experience; feel free to personalize based on your needs.

Read through inner healing session notes prayerfully and highlight or add anything that was profound for you during the time. If no notes were taken, use this time to write down the experience from start to finish. Use bullet points or write paragraphs to capture information. Try to capture the timeline of the experience as it occurred.

After you have processed the experience, begin to process and document what you felt like prior to the healing session and then note the contrast. Try to briefly answer these questions:

- What was life like when I sought healing? How did I feel? What was I struggling with?
- How do I feel now? In what area have I received breakthrough that feels complete? Are there any remaining areas that I need to continue to pursue healing for? How will this experience change the way I interact with others or engage my ministry context?

Ask God if there's anything you need to add or highlight. Pay close attention to the things that stand out to you during this process and allow God to communicate with you about them. It's possible God might bring something to your attention to continue the healing process or to solidify work that was done.

DECLARE TRUTH DAILY and RENEW YOUR MIND

Often times, our spirits and thought life exhibit a form of "muscle memory." Just like our bodies have the ability to hold on to physical trauma, our inner self can remember areas of woundedness even after breakthrough and healing comes. By creating specific declarations and regularly speaking them over ourselves, we begin to train our thought life to align with the truth. We also create new neurological pathways in our brain that aid in our overall wellbeing and mental and spiritual health.



Create declarations to speak over yourself and your breakthrough. For example, if you received healing for anxiety or healing from a wounded memory, look for the truth in that healing and create a sentence to speak out what is now true.

Examples: "I am a child of God that has been freed from _____ by the blood of Jesus I am healed, whole, and clean."

"My mind has been renewed in Christ. All of my thoughts come under the rule and reign of Christ and my emotions and actions align with God's will for me."

"I am no longer slave to _____ instead, Jesus says I am _____ and my identity and whole person is secure in Christ alone."

Turn a favorite scripture verse or song lyric into a declaration. For example, Psalm 23 can sound like this, "I am led by Jesus, my Good Shepherd. All of my needs are met. I am at rest. God leads me everywhere I go. I thrive in the presence of my enemies. My cup overflows and goodness and mercy follow me everywhere. I will always be in the presence of God."

CONTEND FOR YOUR WIN

Be aware of opposition after you have received healing. When opposition comes, exercise your authority in Jesus to combat against the lies, rather than doubt the experience you have had. Read back through your notes, ask God for new declarations, and stand in prayer.

- Prayer of Authority: I am a child of the King and have been given authority in Christ. I apply the blood and sacrifice over my whole self, including area of breakthrough (use this time to apply the blood of Christ over any areas of sin in your life as well). I bind the work of the enemy and his plans to further his dominion of darkness in my life. I bind all accusations against me. I bless my spirit and whole self with personalized declarations of truth God gives you in the moment.
- Read through Ephesians 6:10-18 and dress yourself with the armor of God to protect your thoughts and vital spiritual components of your life.
- Engage in the process of taking each thought captive and submitting it to Christ.
- Enter into worship to combat lies, contend for your breakthrough, rest and increase areas of joy and freedom that you have received.

Who am I in Christ?

For whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, think on these things day and night. Hold on to the teachings of Christ. Then you will know the truth by which you have been made holy, will set you free. (Phil. 4:8, Jos. 1:8, John 8:31, John 17:17)

Matt 5:13	I am the salt of the earth
Matt 5:14	I am the light of the world
Mark 16:17	I have received the power of the Holy Spirit to do great works
John 10:10	I have abundant life
John 10:14	I know God's voice
John 13:34-35	I have love for others
John 14:12	I shall do even greater works than Christ Jesus.
John 15:1,5	I am a true vine, a channel (branch) of His (Christ) life
John 15:15	I am Christ's friend
John 15:16	I am chosen and appointed by Christ to bear fruit
John 17: 21-23	I am one in Christ
John 1:12	I am a Child of God (part of his family) (see Rom. 8:16)
John 6:47	I have everlasting life
John 8: 31-33	I am set free
Rom. 1:7	I am a saint called to be Holy
Rom. 5:1	I have been justified (completely forgiven and made righteous)
Rom. 6:18	I am a slave of righteousness
Rom. 6:1-6	I died with Christ and died to sin's rule over my life
Rom. 6:22	I am enslaved to God
Rom. 8:1	I am free forever from condemnation
Rom. 8:14,15	I am a son of God (God is spiritually my father) (see Gal. 3:25 and 4:6)
Rom. 8:17	I am a joint heir with Christ sharing his inheritance with Him
Rom. 8:2	I live by the law of the Holy Spirit
Rom. 8:37	I am more than a conqueror
1 Cor. 12:27	I am a member of Christ's body (see Eph. 5:30)
1 Cor. 1:30	I have been placed into Christ by God's doing
1 Cor. 1:7	I do not lack any spiritual gift
1 Cor. 1:8	I am established to the end
1 Cor. 2:16	I have been given the mind of Christ



1 Cor. 2:12	I have received the Spirit of God into my life that I might know the things freely given to me by God
1 Cor. 3:16, 6:19	I am a temple (home) of God. His Spirit dwells in me
1 Cor. 6:17	I am joined (united) to the Lord and am one Spirit with Him
1 Cor. 6:19,20	I have been bought with a price. I am not my own. I belong to God
2 Cor. 1:21	I have been established, anointed, and sealed by God in Christ and I have been redeemed (see Eph. 1:13,14)
2 Cor. 2:14	I always triumph in Christ
2 Cor. 5:14,15	Since I have died, I no longer live for myself, but for Jesus Christ
2 Cor. 5:17	I am a new creation (new person)
2 Cor. 5: 18,19	I am reconciled to God, and I am a minister of Reconciliation
2 Cor 5:20	I am an ambassador for Christ
2 Cor. 5:21	I have been made righteous
Gal 2:20	I have been crucified with Christ & it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me (I am now living Christ's life)
Gal. 3:13	I am redeemed from the curse of the law
Gal 3:26,28	I am a son of God and one in Christ
Gal. 4:6,7	I am an heir of God since I am a son of God
Eph 1:1	I am a saint (see 1 Cor 1:2, Phil 1:1, and Col 1:2)
Eph 1:6	I am accepted in Christ
Eph 1:13,14	I have been given the Holy Spirit as a pledge guaranteeing my inheritance to come
Eph 1:3	I have been blessed with every spiritual blessing
Eph 1:4	I have been chosen before the foundation of the world to be Holy and without blame before Him
Eph 1:5	I was predestined (determined by God) to be adopted as His son
Eph 1:7,8	I have been redeemed, forgiven, and am a recipient of His lavish grace
Eph 2:10	I am God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do His work that he planned beforehand that I should do
Eph 2:13	I am brought near by the blood of Christ
Eph 2:18	I have direct access to God through the Holy Spirit
Eph 2:19	I am a fellow citizen with the rest of God's people in His family
Eph 2:20	I am built on the foundations of the apostles and Prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief Cornerstone
Eph 2:5	I have been made alive together with Christ
Eph 2:6	I have been raised up and seated with Christ in heaven
Eph 3:1 & 4:1	I am a prisoner of Christ
Eph 3:12	I may approach God with boldness, freedom, and Confidence
Eph 4:24	I am righteous and holy
Eph 5:1	I am his faithful follower

Eph 6:10	I am strong in the Lord
Phil 1:6	I am being changed into His image
Phil 3:14	I press toward the goal for the prize of the high calling of God
Phil 3:20	I am a citizen of heaven and seated in heaven right now
Phil 4:7	I have the peace of God which passes all understanding
Phil 4:13	I can do all things through Jesus Christ
Phil 4:19	I have all my needs met by God according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus
Col. 1:13	I have been delivered from the domain of darkness (Satan's Rule) and have been transferred to the kingdom of Christ
Col. 1:14	I have been redeemed and forgiven of all my sins (the debt against me has been canceled) (see Col. 13 – 14)
Col. 1:27	Christ himself is in me
Col. 2:7	I have been firmly rooted in Christ and I am now being built up in Him
Col. 2:10	I have been made complete in Christ
Col. 2:11	I have been spiritually circumcised (my old regenerated nature has been removed)
Col. 2:12,13	I have been buried, raised, and made alive with Christ
Col. 2:6	I walk in Christ Jesus
Col. 3:12	I am chosen of God, holy, and dearly loved
Col. 3:1-4	I have been raised w/ Christ. I died with Christ. My life is now hidden with Christ in God. Christ is now my life
Col. 3:3	I am hidden with Christ in God
Col. 3:4	I am an expression of the life of Christ because He is my Life
1 Thes. 1:4	I am chosen and dearly loved by God
1 Thes. 5:5	I am a son of light and not of darkness
2 Tim. 1:7	I have been given a spirit of power, love, and self Discipline
2 Tim. 1:9	I have been saved and called (set apart) according to God's doing (Titus 3:5)
Heb 2:11	Because I am sanctified and am one with the sanctifier (Christ) He is not ashamed to call me brother
Heb 3:1	I am a holy brother partaker of a heavenly calling
Heb 3:14	I am a partaker of Christ in heaven...I share in His life
Heb 4:16	I have a right to come boldly before the throne of God (Throne of grace) to find mercy and grace in time of Need
James 1:18	I am the first fruits among His creation
1 Pet. 1:23	I am God's child born again of the incorruptible seed of the word of God which lives and abides forever
1 Pet. 2:11	I am an alien and stranger to this world in which I temporarily live
1 Pet. 2:24	I am healed by the wounds of Jesus



1 Pet. 2:5	I am one of God's, living stones, and am being built up (In Christ) as a spiritual house
1 Pet. 2:9,10	I am a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, for God's own possession to proclaim the Excellencies of Him
1 Pet. 5:8	I am an enemy of the devil
2 Pet. 1:4	I have been given exceedingly great, and precious promises by God, which I'm a partaker of the divine (God) nature
1 John 3:1,2	I am now a child of God. I will resemble Christ when He returns
1 John 4:17	I am in the world as He is in Heaven
1 John 4:4	I have spiritual authority
1 John 5:18	I am born of God and the evil one (Satan) can not touch Me
1 John 5:4	I have overcome the world
Rev 1:6	I am a king and a priest unto God
Rev 21:7	I am victorious
Deut. 28: 1-14	I am blessed
Deut. 28:2	I am filled with blessings
Ps. 17:8	I am the apple of my Father's eye
Jer. 31:3	I am loved with an everlasting love

A Prayer for Generational Sins, Spiritual Strongholds, Spirits, and Curses

If you see a pattern of pain and/or brokenness but don't perceive any sin component to it, you can omit the confession, repentance, forgiveness, and renunciation parts below.

Lord Jesus, I confess to you the sins of _____ (specific sins) for myself, and especially for _____ (specific family members), and for my entire family tree. I repent of _____ (specific sins) for myself, for _____ (specific family members), and for my entire family tree. I ask your forgiveness for _____ (specific sins) for myself, _____ (specific family members), and for my entire family tree. In Jesus' name I renounce _____ (specific sins) for myself, _____ (specific family members), and for my entire family tree.

In the name of the Lord, Jesus Christ, I command that all generational strongholds and all other strongholds of _____ (specific sins/problems) be torn down in my mind, heart, soul, spirit, and body. In the name of the Lord, Jesus Christ, I also command that all generational strongholds and all other strongholds of _____ (specific sins/problems) be torn down in _____ (specific family members), and throughout my entire family tree.

In the name of the Lord, Jesus Christ, I command that all generational spirits and all other spirits of _____ (names) be bound, in my life, in _____ (e.g., my mother's life, my father's life), and in my entire family tree. In the name of the Lord, Jesus Christ, I command all generational spirits and all other spirits of _____ (names) to leave me, and my family, now, and to go directly to the feet of the true Lord Jesus Christ. He will deal with you as He sees fit. In the name of Jesus, we forbid you from touching or harming anyone or anything on the way. Furthermore, we forbid you, in Jesus' name, from sending any other spirits in your place.

In the name of the Lord, Jesus Christ, I command that all generational curses and all other curses of _____ (specific sins/problems) be broken and rendered powerless, null, and void in my life, in _____ (e.g., my mother's life, my father's life), and throughout my entire family tree.

Lord Jesus, I ask that you would now wash our family tree with your blood, cleansing myself, all previous generations, and my entire family tree (including my children) from _____ (specific sins/problems). I now place the cross and blood of Jesus Christ between myself and all previous generations, between myself and all other members of our family tree, that no evil or



broken thing may pass from any other member of our family to myself, or from me to another, so that only good may come from past generations or any other members of our family tree. (Lord, I specifically ask you to cut my children free from any weaknesses that they may have inherited from me.)

Now, Lord Jesus, in place of those weaknesses, fill me with the power of your Holy Spirit; fill me with your Spirit of _____ (specific strengths that counteract the weaknesses prayed about, e.g., courage, self-control, sobriety). I thank you, Lord Jesus, for your healing and redemptive work. I praise you, now and forever, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

The previous prayer is an adaptation by Michael W. Swanson of Lehman, Karl D. & Charlotte E.T. Lehman, "Prayer for Generational Sins," p.2, <http://www.kclehman.com/download.php?doc=57>, accessed 2/25/10. The last line of the second-to-last paragraph and the last paragraph, however, are adaptations of Christian Healing Ministries, "A Prayer for Generational Healing," in *School of Healing Prayer, Level II Notebook*, p. 127.

Practicing the Priestly Prayer on Planes

BY NOVO STAFF, KEITH UEBELE

I've been practicing priestly prayer on airplanes. I've now traveled on more than 500 planes where I've had a chance to practice and experiment taking up my role as a member of the royal priesthood. Below is an example of how I pray now as I settle into a flight. I didn't start off praying this way, but over the years this is how things have evolved. I expect that I will continue to evolve and adapt how I pray on planes as I learn and get more practice.

I don't recommend prayer formulas, but I offer this as an example of how I've implemented the things I've learned in priestly prayer in my own life on airplanes. I'll add some commentary in italics that will help describe what each part of the prayer is and why it is there.

Blessings on your own adventures in priestly prayer!

Identification and taking up your role as a member of the royal priesthood

(after the door to the plane is closed and our flight is ready to depart the gate)

Lord, I take up my role as a royal priest and proclaim into the spiritual realm that I am a child of the King, a joint heir to all things in Christ, a member of the Royal Priesthood, friend and servant of King Jesus.

Subject of prayer

I present this plane and flight, its contents and cargo, passengers, crew, and every living thing aboard. I present every person and persons involved in the use, operation, regulation, management, maintenance, support, servicing, safety and security of this flight or aircraft before the throne of heaven.

Offer a sacrifice

Lord, I appropriate the blood that Jesus shed on the cross at Calvary—dying once for all sin: past, present and future—to cover our sin and remove it from us as far as the East is from the West, casting it into a sea of forgetfulness and remembering it no more.

Address the enemy and deal with his claims

I now call on every member of the enemy's kingdoms who has ever laid a claim against this plane and flight, its contents and cargo, passengers, crew, and every living thing aboard. I present every person and persons involved in the use, operation, regulation, management,



maintenance, support, servicing, safety and security of this flight or aircraft. I say to you that the blood of Jesus has washed us and cleansed us from all our sin. We are now blameless in the eyes of God, and all your former claims are now null and void.

Bind the strongman

In the authority that God has given me, and in the strong name of Jesus, I bind you and forbid you from influencing this plane and flight, its contents and cargo, passengers, crew, and every living thing aboard. I present every person and persons involved in the use, operation, regulation, management, maintenance, support, servicing, safety and security of this flight or aircraft in any way to advance the interests of your kingdoms.

Further, I command you not to return to any of your former claims, and I forbid you from sending any other spirits to act on your behalf with regard to your former interests. And in accordance with the rules of spiritual warfare, I command you to surrender your shields and defenses, your weapons, tools, schemes and devices that you have used to assert your influence over us to establish and defend your kingdom in our midst, to expand your kingdom and its aims in and through us and lay them at the foot of the cross.

Lord, I invite you to send a suitable emissary of your kingdom to establish swift and orderly compliance to this lawful decree which is in keeping with the decorum of the courts of heaven.

Invitation to the Holy Spirit and blessings

Now Lord, I invite you to bring your kingdom to this plane and flight, its contents and cargo, passengers, crew, and every living thing aboard and to every person and persons involved in the use, operation, regulation, management, maintenance, support, servicing, safety and security of this flight or aircraft. Bring your kingdom to earth as it is in heaven. Lord, extend the tents of your kingdom to include us, send your Holy Spirit to reign and rule here, and I invite you to send ministering angels to meet each person at their point of need.

Here I follow the Holy Spirit's lead and pray specifically for needs and people as he draws them to my attention.

Lord, please draw your creation to yourself. Call out to your image that you have created in us. Lord draw us so close to you that every person in this plane could hear even the whisper of their name when you call them. Soften the hardened hearts, bring mercy and grace, break the old strongholds that have held people in bondage to the enemy, and set them free.

Then I sit back and watch what happens, waiting in expectation for the Lord to work, establish his presence and draw people to himself, and watch the in-breaking of the kingdom of God into the physical world I'm inhabiting on the plane.

Two Priestly Prayer Templates: Family & Spaces

BY COHORT GRAD, STEVE KENNEDY

PRIESTLY PRAYER FOR FAMILY

Priestly Roles: Parents, Head of the Family

Opening

Spirit of God come now and release your power as we pray for the redemption and spiritual growth of all the members of our family.

Declare and identify who we are to the spiritual realm

We proclaim to the spiritual realm that we are the redeemed children of Father God, the King of Kings, our Abba. As such, the Holy Spirit lives within us, and we are entrusted with divine authority and power as delegated by our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ. I, [first name], have a special authority entrusted to me as head of the [last name] family, and [spouse and] I claim my/our role(s) as priests of the order of Melchizedek, in the royal priesthood of Jesus.

Offer a sacrifice; Take and apply the blood of Jesus to cover the situation

We plead the blood of Christ over our family [names of family members], over the houses they dwell in, over the cars they ride in, over the places where they work, over any items they engage with such as computers, TVs, books, and so forth. We claim the promise that the blood of Jesus was shed for their sins as well as any dwellings and objects tainted by sin. In the name of Jesus and his delegated authority, we appropriate His sacrifice and blood to cover and wash away all of their sins. We place the blood of Christ and the cross of Jesus between these sins and any evil spirit which may have held a claim on them based upon those sins.

Bind the enemy; Make the evil kingdom as weak as possible; This is a fight

In the name of Jesus, we renounce any claim by any evil spirit that might have been made because of generational sin or agreements. We break any attachments to dwellings, cars, or objects in the family members' care. These claims are broken because any sin has been



atoned for by the blood of Christ. Since you no longer have a rightful claim, you no longer have a valid reason to be in their midst, and we cast you out and send you to Jesus to do with as He will.

As head of the family, I, [first name], in the name of Jesus forbid you to influence the physical realm or be aware of anything in the physical world which might impair their safety. I forbid you to cause any harm or endanger them in any way. In the name of Jesus, I call forth angels to stand guard over them, protect them, and prevent the work of the enemy. I also forbid you to communicate in the spiritual realm with each other in a way which might endanger them, and I pray extra protection over [names of young children/grandchildren] as they continue to grow as young men/women of God. I pray for the assignment of specific angels to guard them and care for them throughout their lives. To any evil spirit I declare that you have to go through me as head of the [last name] family to get to any member of the family.

In the name of Jesus, we break the power of any evil spirit who brings confusion, temptation, and a desire for the evil things of this world. We call forth a release of the Holy Spirit to bring forth a desire for the Kingdom of God. We call for a release of the Holy Spirit in [names of adult children] as heads of their own families. Help them engage in Kingdom living and set an example for [names of grandchildren].

Bring a blessing; Bring the Kingdom here as it is in heaven

Holy Spirit manifest yourself in the hearts of each member of the family. Bestow the gifts of peace, forgiveness, healing, mercy, purity, joy, faithfulness, kindness, patience, and most of all love. We bless each one with a loving heart and a heart for Jesus. We bless them with safety and health. We bless them with the knowledge that they are unconditionally loved by you, Lord, and their parents. Bless them with the knowledge that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate them from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. In Jesus' name, Amen.

After praying through the template, pray for more specific needs and issues as they come to mind.

PRIESTLY PRAYER FOR SPACES

Priestly Roles: Members of Our Household

Opening

Spirit of God come now and release your power as we pray for our home and land.

Declare and identify who we are to the spiritual realm

We proclaim to the spiritual realm that we are the redeemed children of Father God, the King of Kings, our Abba. As such, the Holy Spirit lives within us, and we are entrusted with divine authority and power as delegated by our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ. I, [first name], have a special authority entrusted to me as head of the [last name] family, and [spouse and] I claim my/our role(s) as priests of the order of Mechizedek, in the royal priesthood of Jesus.”

“[Spouse and] I also claim my/our authority as inhabitants of this home and land and announce the purpose of our creation to bring the physical and spiritual realm together with regard to the dedication of our home and land. We announce our role to bring the Kingdom of God into this home and land as an invasion of the Kingdom on earth as it is in Heaven. We announce our calling to take new ground for the Kingdom in this home and land—that we as inhabitants will know Jesus in a deeper more intimate way within its confines and exercise our power and authority as delegated by Jesus for the continual in-breaking of the Kingdom in the here and now.

Repentance/Forgiveness/Sacrifice

In the name of Jesus, we repent of any sins committed in this house or on this land and ask for forgiveness of these sins. We plead the blood of Christ over this home and land. We claim the promise that the blood of Jesus was shed for our sins as well as our home and land, which may have been tainted by sin. In the name of Jesus and his delegated authority, we appropriate His sacrifice and blood to cover all of our sins and pray for the blood of Christ to wash away like a sweeping tide sins which may have tainted this home and land.

Drive out the enemy

We place the blood of Christ and the cross of Jesus between these sins and any evil spirit which may have held claim on this home and land as a result. We break any attachments of enemy spirits to this house and land because of sin, vows, or self-curses. Your attachments and claims are broken because any sin has been atoned for by the blood of



Christ. Since you no longer have a rightful claim, you no longer have a valid reason for dwelling in this house or on its land, and we cast you out and send you to Jesus to do with you what He wills.

In the name of Jesus, we forbid the enemy and his minions to cause any harm or endanger us in any way in this home and on its land in the future. We come against any future turmoil, anger or unforgiveness which may take place, and we call forth angels to stand guard over our home and land, to protect us and prevent the work of the enemy.

Blessing in the Opposite Spirit

We pray that our home and land will be a place where the gospel is proclaimed and exhibited. We pray that the unconditional love of our Abba and his grace is seen and felt by all who enter. We pray that our home will be a place of worship and thanksgiving, a place of refuge and healing. In the name of Jesus, we call forth blessings of love, peace, mercy, purity, joy, faithfulness, kindness, and patience over our home and land.

Dedication

We now claim our home and land for the King of Kings. We dedicate its use to the continual in-breaking of the Kingdom on earth as it is in Heaven and invite the Holy Spirit, in His person and in His work, to permanently inhabit our home and land. We pray this in Jesus' name, Amen.

After praying through the template, pray for more specific needs and issues as they come to mind.

Adventures in Forgiveness

BY NOVO STAFF, KEITH UEBELE

On a trip in 2012 something happened to me that had never happened before. I had the rare and sacred privilege of praying with a family whose husband and father was being tortured and in prison for his faith. While we were praying, something clicked somewhere inside of me. I felt led to pray in a way that I have never prayed before. After praying for each family member my heart was drawn to pray for the jailers, torturers, and ones perpetrating these evil acts. I prayed for the institutions and government agencies and offices that had become bent towards evil. I asked for their forgiveness, for the blood of Christ to wash away their sin, and for God to remember it no more. It was at this time that something happened; I sensed that things were being unlocked. The best way I can describe it was that I had a sense of spiritual beings controlling humans as slaves. They were cruel masters who bound the humans in chains and in dungeons. And now I sensed that the locks on those chains that bound them and the doors that constrained them were unlocked. The humans were still prisoners, but the power to keep them in bondage was now undone. I had gone deep into enemy territory and removed their power to hold their prisoners.

And then the adventures began.

First, let me say that I do not know with any certainty how effectual my prayers were that day we prayed with the family who was going through a trial of persecution for their faith. As far as I know the husband/father is still in prison and those responsible for conducting the persecution and institutionalizing evil are still in place. But I do suspect that things changed in the spiritual realm even though I cannot yet see the results. I also sensed that I left things undone; that I probably missed something important I should have done so naturally I was drawn in to learn more. In the months that have followed I've been running a series of experiments expanding on this experience. So in the spirit of one running experiments to increase my awareness and effectiveness in the spiritual realm I will try and relate what I've learned in my pursuit. I do not write as a theologian or an apologist proposing a treatise for faith, but as one pursuing my God and the likeness of His Son Jesus hoping that my journey is moving forward and might be of some encouragement to others.

I'm calling this part of my journey "Adventures in Forgiveness." When I say this, I have to quickly explain that I don't mean the important and required work of forgiving those who sin against us. We should all work to keep short accounts and be aggressive forgivers of those who wrong us, but this is not what I'm addressing here. Instead, I've been running experiments to see how forgiveness can be used as a tool, even a weapon, in the spiritual realm. "...if you bind things on earth they are bound in heaven, if you loose things on earth they are loosed." (Matthew 18:18)



It occurred to me that my understanding of being a priest was in need of revival. Before I came to faith in Christ, I was steeped in a religion run by priests. Unfortunately, these priests didn't know God, and my interactions with priests did not earn them a good reputation (to be fair I probably didn't earn a good reputation with them either!). So, when Jesus rescued me, I grabbed on to the truth that "there is one mediator between man and God; the man Christ Jesus." I was free from having to go through priests. Hallelujah! Later when I discovered the "priesthood of all believers" I interpreted "we're all priests" to mean in effect that no one is a priest. I've been discovering that this is an honest but profound mistake. I've been on a quest of sorts to find out what it might mean to be a priest, figuring that Jesus didn't say we were part of a priesthood if in fact there wasn't any role for us to play as priests. What I've found and practiced in my experiments has been an unfolding of sorts that has changed my thinking, faith, and actions.

Here are some of the things I've observed:

- The spiritual role of the priest is to stand between the people and God performing prescribed rituals for atonement and for the redemptive work of God. The priest does for the people what they cannot do for themselves.
- You are born into the priesthood (by lineage in the Old Testament and by adoption into the royal priesthood line of Jesus in the New Testament). Jesus is a priest, the High Priest, and is of the priestly line of Melchizedek. All who are in Christ are born spiritually into this royal priestly line.
- Priests operate in the collective rather than individual realm. Their work regards collective and generational sin, the sin of peoples, communities, institutions, kingdoms, social life, leaders etc. It often deals with collective judgments rather than individual consequences of sin. The priests in the Old Testament are almost always dealing with groups of people and often very large groups of people. So far, I haven't noticed the priestly role dealing with the sins of an individual or relating to individual redemption. Not that there wasn't individual redemption, but the work of the priest appears to focus on the people (plural) not the person (individual).
- Priests have power. The blessing of a priest is sought after, and by all accounts, it is effectual. In Ezekiel the priests are given a separate land to live on so as to avoid an inadvertent blessing coming upon those they live with. Even the presence of priests can impart a blessing; that's power. It appears that a major purpose for the priest is to bring about or impart the blessing of God.
- The central point of the life and role of the priest is the blood sacrifice. Everything is built upon the foundation of the blood. For the blessing of God to occur, there must be atonement for sin, an acceptable sacrifice that can restore the broken relationship with God enough for a blessing to occur.

An experiment: Airplanes

As I was discovering these bits and pieces, I thought I should run a few experiments that would

help me answer the question: "If we're supposed to be using our role as priests while we serve Jesus in bringing his kingdom to earth, what might that look like?" I thought I would try and bring this to bear in a practical way in my daily life. I fly a lot, so I thought about trying this out on my travels. Usually when I settle into my seat, I ask God to protect the plane and passengers, sometimes I pray for those around me, and if events unfold on the plane as they sometimes do, I pray then, too. Nothing wrong with that, but it didn't strike me as being very much like what a priest might do. So, I started to run some experiments, which I'm still running. I've now tried these experiments on a couple of dozen flights. I'm still learning so there's a bit of variation to what I do now but it goes something like this:

- I start once they've closed the door on the plane for takeoff. I used to start to pray when I sat down, but I found out that since people were coming and going, I was leaving people out. I've found it best to wait until you know the plane is now set and the people, cargo, and crew are committed.
- I proclaim to the spiritual realm that a child of the King of Kings is on board. I proudly name my Father, some of His names, my relationship to him, and the authority and power I have through the sonship he has bestowed on me. Basically, I claim what the Father has said to be true of himself, true of me, and recount the gifts he has given me.
- I claim my role as priest of the order of Melchizedek, in the line of the royal priesthood of Jesus.
- I perform a ritual: I plead the shed blood of Christ over the plane, its cargo and contents, and every living thing on board. Since Jesus has already died for the sins of the people on board, the sins of those who made and operate the plane, the sins that have occurred on the plane, and the items on the plane that have been tainted by sin, I appropriate his sacrifice and blood to cover all of these sins. I pray for the blood of Christ to wash away the sin of everyone on board. As I pray this, I often get a picture of a wave tumbling through the cabin, tumbling through everything in its path and taking away darkness, grime and filth. I place the blood of Christ and the cross of Jesus between the sin of the people and things in and of the plane and any spirit which may have held a claim based upon that sin.
- Now I address the spirits: "I renounce any claim for every spirit other than the Holy Spirit that had any claim on this plane, its cargo, contents, and any person on board. Your claim is broken because the sin has been atoned for by the blood of Christ. Since you no longer have a rightful claim, you no longer have a valid reason to be here, and I cast you out and send you to Jesus to do with you what He will."
- Since I don't yet know the extent of my authority, I add the following: "If there are spirits that remain on the plane, by the strong name of Jesus I forbid you to influence the physical realm or be aware of anything in the physical realm until the plane, its passengers, crew, and cargo arrive safely at our destination. I forbid you to cause any harm or to influence any person on the plane or to endanger the flight. I also forbid you to communicate in the spiritual realm until we arrive safely at our destination."



- Now the fun part. I welcome the Holy Spirit to manifest himself on the plane, and I pray a blessing on every person on the plane. I pray that the Holy Spirit move out from each person on the plane he indwells and visit upon each person on the flight. I ask the Spirit to bestow gifts (peace, forgiveness, healing, etc.) and follow God's leading on praying for specific blessings he brings to my attention on each flight
- Then I sit back and watch what happens.

I try to get through all this before we lift off the ground. Sometimes the blessing work continues into takeoff.

I have seen things happen when I pray this way. I don't always notice things happen on each flight. But here are some fun things that I have noticed:

- All the babies stop crying. As a frequent flyer who is often traveling when I am very tired, this is one of my favorites. This has happened multiple times—before I start to pray, lots of babies crying; when I'm done praying, no babies crying. God brought peace.
- One flight as I started to pray, I noticed all the people around me were silent and absorbed in their own world. When I finished praying, I noticed that everyone was talking to someone next to them. This wasn't one or two people talking; I couldn't see anyone who wasn't talking with someone else. God brought community and connection to people.
- On one flight my seatmate was a younger woman who pulled out a New Age/occult book to read once the flight took off. As she started to read, she became very agitated and began to physically shake. When she put the book away, she stopped shaking and breathed calmly and relaxed. She picked up the book again, and the same pattern happened. After doing this twice, she stopped picking up the book, and I prayed that God would pour out a blessing of peace on her heart and into her soul that would remain long after I was gone. The evil one lost an opportunity to harm someone on the plane, and I had the privilege of bringing a moment of peace.

Perhaps the biggest change I've seen on the plane is in me. There is something about taking up the role of priest that sets your attention towards Jesus and his ongoing work of redemption. And I also feel very free on the plane and ready, even expectant, for whatever will arise. I know in my head and heart that we do not struggle against flesh and blood but against powers, principalities, and strongholds in the spiritual realm, but I am often so engaged with the physical world that I am either slow to pick up the battle, or worse, I battle the people instead of our foe.

An Experiment: Hotels

Another area in which I've been running experiments in forgiveness is also related to travel: hotel stays. In my travels, I have had various encounters with problems at hotels. I've learned that it's

important to pray over your hotel room, to take up spiritual occupancy when you take up physical occupancy. This has usually involved declaring my authority in the spiritual realm and casting out any spirits that are not aligned with Jesus and the Kingdom of God. I still do this, but I've been experimenting with ways to pray that might be more in keeping with the role of priest. The first thing I do is pray for the land; I plead the blood of Christ over the land for the forgiveness of sin against the land past and present. Land has spiritual memory; sin and blessing have a way of leaving impressions and influence on land that can last long after the people have left. Some lands are "ancient" and have thousands of years of spiritual history corresponding to their human history. Other lands have been less peopled or less recently peopled and may be more spiritually dormant. I've learned not to trust my eyes alone in accessing the spiritual history and power of a place; it's hard to see history, and sometimes it's hard to look past a physical façade and sense the spirituality of a place. All lands have boundaries, and just like the physical world, land in the spiritual world has ownership. The goal of my prayer for the land is to reclaim the land the hotel sits on for the King and for the Kingdom of God.

After washing away the sin of the land, I turn my attention to any spirits that may have used this sin to lay out a claim on the land. I cast them out of the land declaring that any claims they may have held are now null and void since the sin has been atoned for and forgotten, and with no valid claim I cast them out never to return. I declare the land to belong to the King of Kings and invite the Holy Spirit to inhabit the land. I also ask that God set out Angels to guard his claim to the land. Having set out my foundation, I turn my attention to the hotel—its construction, staff, management and guests. I plead the blood of Christ over the sins against all the people and things associated with the hotel and ask God to remember it no more. Once God has forgotten, I command any spirits that have laid attachments or claims against the hotel due to past sin to leave. Having completed this, I ask God to inhabit the hotel and bless the hotel, its management, staff, and guests. In a sense I've moved from laying out my room as a spiritual boundary to asking God to reclaim the land and hotel itself. I've extended my work from praying for my own spiritual protection and safety to a priestly role of redeeming the land and the hotel and blessing the land, hotel, and people who work and visit there.

I can't tell you much about what has happened as I pray this way. I have the sense that this work is more long than it is short. What I mean is that as priests I believe we are meant to have a continual redemptive and blessing role as we move through the land. And it occurs to me that though Jesus sacrifice is "once for all," the role of the priest might be intended to be more repetitive. In fact, one reason the land might be in such poor shape spiritually is that the priests have not been walking though the land regularly and doing for the people what they cannot do for themselves.



An Experiment: Intercession

Another area I've been running experiments in forgiveness is principalities and powers through intercession. I have a confession to make: when people ask me to pray, I don't always pray what they ask me to pray. I do pray, but I often find myself praying about something different than what I was asked to pray for. For example, I was recently asked to pray for an elderly woman (80+ years young, I recall). This woman had spent her whole life following Jesus and was now facing some serious health issues. I did not pray for this woman's successful surgery. As I recall, I did pray thanks to God for her long life and faithful service and asked God to show her mercy and envelop her in His love. It just didn't feel "right" to me to go right to praying something very specific in the physical realm without addressing the higher reality of the spiritual realm. This got me thinking again about the priesthood and intercession: what if I tried to address things in the spiritual realm when I prayed for others and considered the physical realm more as a prompt for prayer than a request on how to pray?

Some time ago, word reached me that a country that I have come to care deeply about in the Middle East was in trouble. By itself this isn't newsworthy, but something was different this time. As I entered into this news, I sensed an awful dread. The situation on the ground was deteriorating rapidly; the population was arming and drawing together along sectarian lines. And then one of my friends said that it looked like they were heading toward civil war. Something snapped inside me, and I wept. I cried out to God. I pled for the saints, the nation, and the Kingdom of God to come to the land, and I prayed the blood of Christ to cover the sins of the people and the land. And then I asked God to dispatch a legion of angels to join the fight, push back the darkness, and claim the land for the King. (This was the first time I asked for a legion of angels to be deployed to a battle in the spiritual realm.) Immediately, I sensed a turning of the tide. Though the news on the ground conditions didn't change right away, I was not dissuaded and was confident that things had now changed. In a week, the news on the ground started to change, and though still tense, it no longer looked as if the country was headed for civil war. Did my prayers make a difference? Where they effectual? I don't know. I do know that something changed, and I am confident that doing battle in the spiritual realm is sometimes key to bringing the Kingdom of God to earth as it is in heaven.

I think I have developed a bit of an unhealthy desire to look for physical results when I pray. It is certainly thrilling to see physical world changes when we pray, but Jesus seemed to tell us not to get too caught up in this as our focus. Instead, I want to work to become more balanced. I am 100% physical and 100% spiritual, and my physical part is going to wear out and get replaced (hallelujah!) whereas it seems my spiritual self is going to be transformed (hallelujah!) but continue on for eternity. I want to develop the habit of engaging the spiritual realm because I am a spiritual being, not just because I want God to change something in the physical world.

In another case, I was asked to pray for an event being held in Africa. It was a follow up meeting mobilizing leaders to an exciting and different way of what could be called church planting. There

were many opportunities for resistance and opposition from those attending the event, from religious extremists posing a physical threat and from powers and principalities opposed to Jesus and his Kingdom. What would a priest do? I prayed for the land and the building they were meeting in; I pled the blood of Christ over it for the forgiveness of sin, past and present. I claimed it for Jesus and His Kingdom, blessed it, and set it apart for sacred purposes. I placed the cross and the blood of Christ between the building and the land and the enemies of God. And I asked for reinforcements—warrior angels to defend the saints, push back the powers of darkness, and establish a safe border for the Kingdom there. I also asked God to refresh the angels who were in the fight.

It's hard to describe what I felt and sensed as I prayed. I saw a room in shadow filled with angels turned towards the outer walls facing a formidable darkness. The angels were unafraid and resolute. I sensed peace. Reports for the week were that God did amazing things. There was no physical attack, and another venture deep into enemy territory has refreshed and encouraged the saints who live on one of the most six active spiritual fault lines in the world. I know that I was not the only one who prayed in this way and that many others who I joined praying in this way have much more experience in these matters than I do. So, in this case, it was more like a group of musicians sitting in on a jam session together—each one taking cues from the other and creating something bigger than ourselves. But instead of listening to each other's music, the Holy Spirit led each of us in concert though we were miles apart. The priesthood is not primarily about what one priest can do but about what the priesthood can do. I can be content to do my part and join in with others taking on this role wherever possible.

Missed Opportunities

Sometimes failures can teach as much as success, so I thought that it might be informative to share a failure from which I have learned on this adventure. As Valentine's Day was approaching this year, I was on a business trip in D.C. I distinctly remember talking with God in my quiet time one morning on that trip and saying something like: "God, I don't know how I'm going to get any good at raising people from the dead when I never get any practice." I suppose this might seem a little bit odd, but I've been working on doing the things that Jesus said his followers would do—"heal the sick, cast out demons, preach the Gospel, raise the dead..."—and I felt like I was getting opportunities to practice everything except raising people from the dead, as I'm just never around people who are dying or dead.

Then I was off to my normal day in D.C. It was an unusual day of accidents in the Metro, but they didn't affect me apart from making it more difficult to get around. At the end of the day, I left my colleagues to buy some Valentine's cards for my family. I bought three cards in the store for my children and headed toward my hotel. Three steps out of the store I thought, "What am I doing?" and rushed back in to buy a card for my wife. That was odd, I thought. Settling on a card for my



wife, I headed back out into the tunnels toward my hotel. I noticed something odd ahead of me in the tunnel and realized that there was a man on the ground and someone performing CPR with a couple of security people nearby. As I approached, it all rushed back: "God, is this my dead guy?" Two more steps and I was there, and everyone (except the dead guy) turns and makes eye contact with me at once. I decided to pray and ask God to heal this man and raise him up from the dead and breathe new life into him, but I did not stop walking. As I continued to pray and walk, the EMTs burst through the door and rushed past me. I knew I missed an opportunity here. I was sorry that I did not stop and lay hands on this man. I don't know if my prayers as I walked by were effectual, but I was sure I missed an opportunity to bring the fullness of the Kingdom to bear in this man's situation.

As I spent time with God that evening, it occurred to me that I could have stopped and said: "I'm a priest. Would it be OK if I prayed for this man?" That's what a priest would do, stand in the gap and do for man what he cannot do for himself and bring the Kingdom of heaven to earth. I remember finishing off that prayer time with gratitude to God for giving me an opportunity to practice raising someone from the dead, for being a patient teacher, for loving this man even through my mistakes, slowness, and lack of courage, and looking forward to the next time I get to practice raising the dead.

In the morning as I met up with my colleagues, I asked them, "When you guys were coming through the tunnel, did you come across a dead guy on the floor?" "Yes, we didn't see him go down, but we arrived right as some volunteers were getting started on CPR. He looked really bad; he was white. They cleared his airway, started compressions, and called for help. We decided to leave because we weren't more qualified than anyone else who was helping." Then I shared my story and told them that I prayed that God would raise this man from the dead. "Cool. We need to find out what happened; maybe he lived." We didn't learn what happened to this man, but I feel like the Kingdom of God is a little closer than it was before. And I'm on the alert with expectation for my next dead man.

By Keith Uebele on December 28, 2012

Mind the Gap

BY COHORT GRAD, KELSEY PHILLIPS

“Mind the gap.” This famous phrase seen and heard all around the London underground subway system is a safety reminder for all stepping off the station’s stable platform and onto the soon-to-depart train. Heaven forbid you get stuck in that gap between departures. Gaps are risky.

Spiritually speaking, there is a gap between heaven and earth that began at the Fall. Heaven’s spiritual world and earth’s physical world became two different places with two different destinations at the bite of forbidden fruit. Thankfully, God, in his deep love and longing for restored relationship, set up systems to reconcile with his creation. In the Old Covenant, the high priests (i.e., Aaron and his male descendants) stood in the gap for God’s chosen by bringing animal sacrifices, sprinkling blood for forgiveness and cleansing, and interceding on behalf of God’s people.

But this temporary atonement had to be repeated year after year. The New Covenant introduced the long-awaited Messiah, Jesus, who would permanently bridge that gap by becoming both our eternal High Priest and the perfect, ultimate sacrifice. He became the ultimate sacrifice for us through his death on a cross, His blood poured out for our forgiveness and cleansing of sin, and His resurrection for our eternal life with God. This is the good news of the gospel for all who trust in Jesus.

So, what does it mean when 1 Peter 2:9 tells me I am a member of the royal priesthood? Does this mean that I, too, stand in that gap? The answer is a resounding YES! Not in the same sense to bring salvation and reconciliation to God (only Jesus can do that), but to do my part in bringing “his kingdom come, his will be done on earth as it is in heaven” as the Lord’s Prayer teaches us. As believers, we may live in this physically broken world, but we have full access to the Kingdom of heaven’s inheritance as a son or daughter of the king (Romans 8:15-17; Ephesians 1:18) and the spiritual authority that comes with that (Matthew 28:18; Luke 9:1-2). We have access now to that inheritance and authority to co-labor with Jesus in the gap (John 14:12).

Mission strategist, Keith Uebele, (who currently teaches spiritual authority with Novo, a global mission’s organization) encouraged me to take that role of a royal priest to mean what it says, and I encourage you to do the same. Our new identity in Christ gives us access to spiritually cover places, spaces, and systems in the blood of Jesus for cleansing and forgiveness (Hebrew 10:19-22), binding the enemy’s activity by rendering him powerless (Matthew 18:18), and loosing the power of the Holy Spirit to be activated for Kingdom work (Matthew 18:18), all in prayer. Keith



urges missionaries all over the world, along with believers like you and me, to spiritually do in prayer what the high priests did in person:

- Pray as a son/daughter of the King. (Spiritual identity)
- Spiritually apply the blood of Jesus to spaces, patches of earth, and human systems for forgiveness and cleansing. (Spiritual covering)
- Bind the enemy's darkness in Jesus' name. (Spiritual weeding)
- Loose the ministry of the Holy Spirit and bless creation in Jesus' name. (Spiritual planting)

Since I am no overseas missionary or mission strategist, it seemed new and uncomfortable for me to pray with such boldness and confidence; this was outside of my usual Adoration-Confession-Thanksgiving-Supplication kind of prayer. But gaps involve risk. It turns out, the risk is worth it. As I have begun to pray with authority in my royal priesthood role by applying the blood of Jesus and binding and loosening in Jesus' name, I have seen extraordinary spiritual fruit from these prayers. A new spiritual landscape is sprouting, and I am experiencing renewed joy as I co-labor with Christ in bringing His kingdom-come to places near to my heart.

I'll share with you a most personal and tender example of one of my recent royal priesthood assignments.

At age 39, I had just buried my dad next to my eldest child, a son born stillborn 10 years earlier. I distinctly remember saying to the Lord, "Nothing about this is good. How can anything good come from this?" God's still, small voice brought hope through the sadness when he gently said, "I am in the business of bringing life out of death. It is who I am and what I do." I stood there staring at those two graves side by side and quietly whispered in my heart, "Then I trust you to bring abundant life out of this death."

Two weeks later I'm back in my hometown, spending the night in my parent's empty house as my recently widowed mom is hospitalized for emergency quadruple bypass heart surgery - her own future unexpectedly now uncertain. The Lord reminds me in my fresh grief and growing fears, "Remember, I bring life out of death. Would you like to help me get started?" I knew exactly what that meant. Room by room, I walked through every inch of my mom's house applying the blood of Jesus and praying like a royal priest in Jesus' name.

- I bound up loneliness and loosed COMMUNITY to gather in that home.
- I bound up sadness and loosed JOY in her new season of widowhood.
- I bound up sickness and death (especially in my dad's man-cave where he spent most of his final two years) and loosed LIFE to come back to that space.

By the last room, I was confident my prayer work that day was done. It was difficult work emotionally but spiritually invigorating. I repeated that process each night for a week. And by the end, my own sadness and fear lifted and expectancy began.

A year later, my mom was finally healing from her own series of tough battles, and it felt like our family was breathing again.

Then COVID-19 hit.

Along with the rest of the world, a series of disappointments followed: cancelled summer camps, postponed vacations, and closings of public pools. Huge summer bummer for my family of 5 with young kids.

This led my Dallas, Texas-based crew back to my hometown of Shreveport, Louisiana for a full six weeks - primarily for summer survival during COVID. My mom was thrilled to have the company, and we were excited to swim in her refreshing pool every day. What started out as COVID summer "plan B" turned out to be a divine appointment in my mom's home.

I got to see with my physical eyes some of the spiritual fruit out of the seeds that had been planted a year earlier in prayer in that very space. To name a few:

- Vacation Bible School (VBS) week was spontaneously organized for twelve grandchildren (plus adults) who arrived every morning in my dad's man-cave for a full day of fun
- Salvation of two nieces resulted from the VBS family testimony time
- Emotional healing prayer brought victory for an adult cousin under spiritual attack
- Spiritual gifts were activated as old friendships were rekindled and testimonies shared on my mom's back porch while the children swam
- Prayer walking appointments were set up as hometown friends wanted to learn more about covering, binding, and loosing through prayer
- Prayer groups formed across North Louisiana to learn more about the power of prayer through the Novo spiritual authority prayer class
- Community, joy, and life filled my mom's home for six weeks during COVID summer and beyond, and she is now hosting one of those prayer groups

COMMUNITY...

JOY...

LIFE...

The very things he had whispered for me to pray during those long, emotional evenings a year earlier when I stood in the gap as a royal priest were all happening before my very eyes.

He is indeed a God who brings life out of death. It is who he is and what he does. All we have to do is mind the gap.



Framework for Priestly Prayer

BY COHORT GRAD, JONNÉ RASMUSSEN

1. Declare your identity in Christ

Royal Priesthood

Daughter/Son of the King

Remind yourself of what is true and the authority you have

2. Apply the Sacrifice

I apply the sacrifice of Jesus, his blood shed on the cross to _____ (the subject of your prayer) to cover the sin/the place/the land/the government/the workplace/the city, etc.

For I know and declare that Jesus' sacrifice is sufficient to cover all their sins past, present, and to come.

3. Bind the enemy

Based on the authority and power God has given me, in the name of Jesus Christ alone, I bind the enemy (can be that simple but you can also bind any demonic spirits that come to mind).

I bind...spirit of pride, division, jealousy, sickness, lying, etc.

4. Bless

I pray a blessing of _____ or I bless in the name of Jesus... (Listening prayer... what do you hear? How do they need to be blessed?)

Matt 16:19 "Whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

Matt 6:10 "Your kingdom come...on earth as it is in heaven." As Jesus taught us to pray.

**NOTE: Have fun, experiment, and pray expectantly! Remember we are all sheep and children to our God, not experts. He loves us trying. The first month I carried around my paper and warned people this may sound crazy. The results have been insane.*



Extended Prayer Without Seeing Answers— Essentially Waiting on God

BY NOVO FOUNDER, PATTY METCALF

How can I keep my faith strong when I've been praying for a long time without any answer?

This is not an uncommon question, because everyone goes through this type of thing. I have had plenty of prayers that fall in this category over the years. I don't have pat answers but find several things helpful to think about in this regard:

1. Are you praying God's will as far as you know?

This question is a good one to ask yourself then have a discussion with God to discover more about his heart for the situation.

2. Has God spoken to you regarding this request? Given you any promises?

God has often given me direction and promises many years before I see the answer. In fact, it seems that after he gives the promise or assurances, I often go through more stress and testing in the area than I ever did before the promise was given.

It gives me perspective to remember the MANY examples in scripture where God speaks or gives a promise and yet the answer comes many years later. I feel this is a big part of his character formation and stretching our faith (like a physical muscle, it is not strengthened without being used and stretched).

"Faith is the evidence of things hoped for and the assurance of things not seen" (Hebrews 11).

It's easy to trust God when all is going well and all our prayers are answered, but our faith muscles are stretched when we press ahead into the murky unknown.



3. Prayer and believing are foundational but at the same time we are to trust and surrender our desires and timetable to God's design.

A favorite quote of mine is "Trust is hanging in the cool shade of surrender" (from *Strong Women, Soft Hearts* by Paula Rhinehart).

It seems incongruent to believe in faith and push forward with prayer while at the same time surrendering this issue to God. I can't help but think of how Abraham must have felt when God asked him to sacrifice his long prayed-for son.

We often cannot understand the juxtaposition of strong faith and surrender - they seem oppositional, but our love for God and desire to obey him have to be stronger than anything else in our lives.

The promises can never mean more to us than the "promiser," as there are many things behind the scenes which we may never know this side of heaven. Just a few of the Biblical examples of waiting on God include:

These examples tip the scales toward WAITING more than instantly receiving when comes to the BIG issues of life. All this points out to me that God is focused on growing our faith as he molds us into the image of his Son.

- Abraham and Sarah waited 25 years for a child. Impatience won over when Abraham fathered Ishmael, yet they still eventually got their promised son (Gen 12:4, 21:5).
- Isaac and Rebekah waited twenty years to hold their twin babies, Jacob and Esau (Genesis 25:20-21,26).
- Moses waited forty years in Midian before returning to Egypt to lead the Israelites (Acts 7:30).
- Joseph had a dream about reigning over his brothers but had to go through many years of hardship, servitude, and humbling before he saw this dream fulfilled. Once in captivity, he waited thirteen years before becoming a ruler in Egypt (Genesis 37:2, 41:46).
- David, after being anointed king by Samuel, waited 17 years before reigning over the whole land (2 Sam 2:4, 2:11, 5:4-5).
- The Israelites were in Egyptian bondage for 400 years (Gen 15:13).

These examples tip the scales toward WAITING more than instantly receiving when comes to the BIG issues of life. All this points out to me that God is focused on growing our faith as he molds us into the image of his Son.

4. Additionally:

- Prayer is dynamic and not static.
- It's important to remember that we are partners with God, not puppets. Sometimes he gives a promise and HE does all the work. Sometimes he asks us to be involved. He frequently promised the Israelites victory in war - they often had to fight, but sometimes HE himself did all the fighting.
- Sometimes we start praying for something with the maturity we had early in life, but then as we grow and learn about God and his heart and actions over time, we may review a past "promise" and realize we are a bit "off base" in what we are asking. We may "edit" our prayers and then see answers.

5. Favorite verses:

"Therefore, the Lord waits to be gracious to you. Therefore, he exalts himself to show mercy to you, for the Lord is a god of justice. Blessed are all those who wait on him."
(Isaiah 30:18)

"And this is the confidence that we have in him that if we pray anything according to his will, he hears us and if he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests made of him." (1 John 5:14,15)



Caretakers in the Land: A Prayer-Walking Guide

BY JOHANNA LOHRMANN, NOVO STAFF

Prayer-walking is an active type of prayer where you ask and listen for insight from God and then discover what he would like you to do about it. Prayer-walking is most effective when you are hearing what God has to say about your sphere of influence.

Ask God for a territory that he wants you to pray through (your home, community, city, etc.). You can prayer-walk as often as you want until you see the Kingdom break in.

Think of prayer-walking like gardening in the land: we want to remove the things that prevent us from planting, then we want to plant good things to grow and flourish. The following outline is just a framework to get you started.

PRAY FOR PERSONAL COVERING: Begin by asking God for protection and help.

- Ephesians 6:10–18
- Ask for angelic help

TAKE OWNERSHIP: Declare your responsibility for the land.

“God, this is my _____, I take responsibility for it and will love this space and the people in it by praying here.”

OBSERVE THE NATURAL WORLD: Use your senses and ask God to illuminate your supernatural gifts.

- What’s going on around you?
- What do you see? Hear? Smell?
- What do you feel? (Note feelings of peace or fear.)
- What do you think about this place?

LISTEN / ASK: Engage your physical senses and observe what’s happening around you. Ask God for deeper insight into the spiritual realities of what’s going on and listen for his responses.

- God, how do you see this place? (What’s your heart for this land?)
- God, where are you at work in this place?
- God, help me discern the land. What do you want me to know?
- What shall I pray for?

WEED: Ask God for further insight as you begin to “clear” the land of the influence of the enemy. God may invite you to address defilements in the land.

- God, where has darkness prevailed?
- Apply the blood sacrifice of Jesus
- Ask God to remove evil
- What is occupying this land?
- Command / Bind the enemy

PLANT: Bless and build God’s Kingdom culture as you prayer-walk. We always have the right to do this in our spheres. See Jeremiah 1:10.

- Declare truth
- Bless / Loosen
- Preach the gospel to the land
- Worship
- Take communion



Spiritual Warfare & Putting on the Armor of God

BY DR. MYRA PERRINE, NOVO STAFF

"Finally, be strong in the Lord & in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can stand firm against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh & blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities & powers of this dark world, the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand firm, & after you've done everything, to stand. Eph. 6:10-18

- *"Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist..."*
Lord, I buckle on the **belt of truth**, exhaling all the lies I have believed. I receive only your truth that you are good, you are wise, you know me better than I know myself, I am your beloved, & you are the sovereign Lord of the universe.
- *I strap on the **breastplate of righteousness**.* Your breastplate covers my heart & all my vulnerable places. I thank you, Abba, that when you look at me, you see me covered with the righteousness of Christ. My blunders & flaws don't show under his pure righteousness. It's not about MY righteousness but his, & when you look at me, you see me as your child, fully forgiven & with a cleansed heart.
- *I put on my feet **the readiness of the gospel of peace**.* Lord, thank you that I walk in your shalom peace; everywhere I go your good news of peace prepares me for both unexpected events & attacks of the enemy, as well as the unexpected appointments & opportunities to minister in Jesus' name. Your shalom is perfect & complete peace—on earth as it is in heaven.
- *I take up the **shield of faith**,* with which to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one—the devil's darts of doubt, discouragement, despair, depression, defeat, disbelief. No attack of the enemy can touch me, because I lift my shield & the flaming arrows just bounce off & hit the ground. I choose to believe your truth, Jesus, rather than the taunts & lies of the enemy.
- *I put on the **helmet of salvation**,* and on my head is your helmet, Lord. You protect my mind, which is kept in perfect peace and assurance because my mind is fixed on you. I am saved! I am Yours! And the peace that passes understanding guards my heart & mind in Christ Jesus, giving me the very mind of Christ!



- *I grasp firmly the **sword of the Spirit**, which is the Word of God. Just like you did in the wilderness, Jesus, I grasp my sword, your rhema word spoken to me in kairos time—at just the right in the moment I need it...to stick it to the enemy when he gets too close. I am confident in the protection Your armor provides!*
- *And **pray in the Spirit** on all occasions with all kinds of prayers & requests. With this in mind, I stay alert & always keep on praying for all the saints.*
- ***I pray** that whenever I speak, your Spirit will give me the words to boldly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador. I pray that I may declare the gospel fearlessly, & I pray for your protection & provision for all believers. Amen.*

The Armor of God

BY BILL RANDALL, NOVO STAFF

Dear Lord, I quiet myself before you, you who are my fortress & peace in the midst of the battle.

As I go forth today in your strength, I praise & thank you that you are in me, & you go everywhere with me, making me strong by your mighty power. Please anoint me afresh with your awesome Spirit; baptize me in your Holy Spirit. Thank you for your armor, which you have given me for victory. I praise you, Lord, that you have provided me with what I need to stand fast against the devil's schemes. I now take up each piece of my armor & pray it on.

- I take up the **belt of truth** & buckle it around me. I am so thankful for the word of God I have prayerfully read today. Please renew my mind with the mind of Christ! Instruct my heart for your glory. Today I will walk according to the truth, knowing that path gives real freedom. I will also walk in truthfulness & confess & repent of any hypocrisy, seeking to live truthfully before You & others.
- I put on the **breastplate of righteousness**. Once again, I rely on the fact that you have covered me with your righteousness, & I do not go forth today because I am worthy in myself. You are my righteousness, & you have made me worthy to worship & represent you by grace. I know I am your beloved—Abba's child—and upon me your favor graciously rests.
- I now apply the gospel of peace in order that my **feet are fitted for readiness**. I want to be ready for the unannounced attacks of the enemy, as well as the unannounced opportunities to minister in Jesus' name. Show me, Lord, if there are ways in which I am not at peace with you, with others, or myself. I now apply the gospel as needed (confession, forgiveness, casting cares upon You, etc.).
- I take up the **shield of faith**. Lord, as I move into this day, I fix my eyes upon you. I will 'walk by faith & not by sight.' I will be led & influenced by you; deflect all the flaming arrows of the enemy. When the enemy sends his missiles of doubt, discouragement, accusation, fear, or temptation—I will hide myself in you.
- I put on the **helmet of salvation**. Before I go into battle, I renew my mind in the truth that I am securely saved, that I belong to you forever, & that even demonic rulers do not possess the power 'to separate me from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus my Lord.' Knowing I am eternally anchored to you, Lord, as your beloved I am free to courageously obey You today.



- Finally, I take up the **sword of the Spirit**, which is the word of God. Holy Spirit, guide me today in speaking forth & applying your truth as needed in order to advance your Kingdom & dethrone your enemy. I want to walk & minister in the light of your written & prophetic word. Under your anointing, I will unsheathe the sword & apply specific scriptural truth to specific situations as you direct me by your Spirit. I rise now & go forth in the power of Your name & in the comfort of your loving presence, for your glory & fame. Amen.”

© Bill Randall, Novo. Excerpt from *The Life Jesus Made Possible*. 3.2018

Gospel Movement Resources

BOOKS, ARTICLES, PODCASTS, & MORE

To learn more about reaching your city, check out these resources below.

Additional Chapters in Cohort Books:

- Chapter 3 in *The Life Jesus Made Possible* by Bill Randall, Novo staff

Other Books:

- *Beyond the Local Church* by Sam Metcalf, President of Novo, 1980-2023
- *Tradecraft: For the Church on Mission, 2nd edition* by Caleb Cridern, Larry E. McCrary, Rodney Calfee, and Wade Stephens
- *The Forgotten Ways: Reactivating Apostolic Movements* by Alan Hirsch
- *The Church as Movement: Starting and Sustaining Missional-Incarnational Communities* by JR Woodward and Dan White Jr.
- *The Rise of Christianity: How the Obscure, Marginal Jesus Movement Became the Dominant Religious Force in the Western World in a Few Centuries* by Rodney Stark

Podcast:



Stories from the Toolshed

Episode 9: For the Sake of the City (Bonus Testimony)



KC Underground Podcast (available on PodBean)

Episode 7: Prayer Precedes Movement with Sam Metcalf, President of Novo, 1980-2023

Episode 8: Activating Prayer with Lee Price, Novo staff

Episode 4: Finding the One to Reach Many with Phil Alessi, Novo staff

<https://link.novo.org/kc-underground>



Activating Prayer Texts from Acts

PROVIDED BY BILL RANDALL, NOVO STAFF

- Acts 1:4-5,14; 2:1-4 – The movement Jesus started began with a Promise that became Prayer that resulted in Power to advance the mission of God.
- Acts 2:42 – The testimony of the devotion to community prayer in the earliest expression of church.
- Acts 3:6-7 – Declarative prayer miracle that served as a sign that made many wonder about Jesus.
- Acts 4:23-31 – Intercessory prayer leading to a supernatural encounter of God's power that enabled the emboldened witness of Jesus' followers.
- Acts 6:1-7 – New leaders selected and set apart with prayer resulting in the multiplication of new disciples.
- Acts 7:54-8:1ff – A martyr's prayer unleashes (though unintentionally) the first great missionary movement.
- Acts 8:14-17 – Prayer for new believers releases the anointing of the Holy Spirit (also called "the gift of God", v. 20).
- Acts 9:10-19 – Listening prayer that reveals a specific assignment from God that leads to the conversion, healing and anointing of the apostle Paul.
- Acts 9:32-42 – Declarative prayer miracles that lead to cities turning to the Lord.
- Acts 10:9-11:18 – Prayer turns to prophetic vision that leads to a dramatic missional/theological paradigm shift that opens the door to intentional. Mission to the Gentile world.
- Acts 12:5ff – Earnest prayer of a gathering of believers leads to Peter's supernatural release from prison.
- Acts 13:2-3 – Intimate, interactive communion with God leads to the Spirit led assignment to commission the first cross-cultural missionaries.
- Acts 14:3 – The spoken Word of the Lord is confirmed by signs and wonders performed by Paul and Barnabas. Miracles, signs and wonders provide an extraordinarily effective apologetic for the gospel message. The testimony of the book of Acts and church history is that there is always both proclamation and demonstration...words and works of the Kingdom wherever gospel movements are at work in the world.



- Acts 14:19-20 – Paul raised from the dead by the prayer of some of his missionary friends.
- Acts 14:21-23 – New leaders for new churches commissioned with prayer by Paul and Barnabas.
- Acts 16:6-10 – Paul is geographically redirected in his missional travels through listening prayer, discernment and a prophetic vision.
- Acts 16:13ff – The priority in a new ministry site is to establish “a place of prayer.” The place of prayer becomes the place to discover a strategic Person of Peace.
- Acts 16:25ff – A prison prayer meeting precipitates an earthquake that God uses to reveal another strategic Person of Peace in Philippi.
- Acts 19:6 – New believers are anointed with the Holy Spirit and receive new spiritual gifts at the laying on of hands.
- Acts 20:36-21:14 – Prayer is at the center of painful apostolic multiplication moments.
- Acts 26:15-18 – Paul’s experience of listening prayer at his conversion served to keep him anchored to his call through his many trials later in life.
- Acts 28:7-10 – Healing of a Person of Peace unleashes a healing movement on the island.