THE POWER OF A PRAYING STORMIE



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CONTENTS

To All Those Who Love Children	5
1. I Talk to God and He Hears Me	ç
2. I Pray to God When I Am Afraid	21
3. I Tell God if I Am Hurting	31
4. I Ask God to Help Me When It's Hard to Pray	41
5. I Pray to God for My Friends, Family, and Others	47
6. I Ask God to Help Me Do the Right Thing	59
7. I Pray to God About the Things That Worry Me	69
8. I Tell God It's Hard to Wait for Answers	
to My Prayers	77
9. I Thank God for All His Gifts to Me	85
10. I Talk to God About My Future and My Purpose	93
My Prayer Journal 1	103





Dear mom or dad, grandpa or grandma, aunt or uncle, teacher or caregiver, or whoever has the Father's heart for the child who reads this book,

God wants to talk to kids. Kids want to talk to God. And it's never too soon to teach them how. No matter what age a child is, he or she is never too young to learn how to pray.

Many wonderful books have been written on prayer, but most of them are for adults. Why should the adults get all the good books? Are adult prayers more powerful than a child's? Not necessarily. I know many children who have strong faith and great understanding of how to pray. Their prayers are more powerful than those of an adult whose faith is weak and who rarely talks to God. No adult should ever underestimate how powerful a child's prayers can be. That's because the power in a child's prayers is the same as in an adult's. It's *God's* power. If faith is the spark that ignites that power, then there is no limit to how brightly the flame

will burn in a child's heart and what God can do in response to it. What does it matter how big or small the person is who is praying?

Children tend to have a pure faith. They are ready to believe God and are willing to trust Him to answer their prayers. They don't have the same doubts and questions about prayer that adults do. Children can easily be taught how to pray, how to thank God when their prayers are answered, and how to discern the answers to prayer when they come in unexpected ways. They just need to know that God is real, that He listens to their prayers, and that He will answer them.

Kids have passion. The older they get, the more that passion grows. And you can be sure they will use their passion for something, either for good or for bad. But you can help them harness that passion and use it for the Lord by teaching them to have an honest, open, close, and passionate relationship with God while they're young. The younger they are when they start, the less of a problem they will have maintaining an active prayer life when they get older. Don't think that your child is too young to give his life to God. The *enemy* certainly doesn't think your child is too young to give his life to fulfilling *his* plans for him. It's easier to teach a child to pray than it is to redeem a difficult situation later on that could have been prevented by having prayed about it.

If you want to see God move in a special way in your child, teach him or her how to talk with their heavenly Father. This book will help. Children can't have a close relationship with God unless they habitually learn to communicate with Him in prayer. You will be amazed when your child starts to pray on his own. Nothing will warm your heart more than hearing a Holy Spirit-inspired prayer come out of his or her mouth.

God wants adults to come to Him like little children. Openly, honestly, unabashedly, and passionately. We can learn a lot from children about that. And they can learn a lot from us when they see and hear us praying. The children in your life will watch to see what you do. Invite them to be a part of your prayers. Pray with them and for them. Children are easily filled with the love of God and are willing to share it, so encourage them to pray for others too. And don't ever hesitate to ask your children to pray for you. Praying for you encourages them to be part of an active and vital prayer life. It makes regular prayer seem natural and second nature to them. It helps them make prayer a way of life. Besides, you never know when you might need a prayer as powerful, pure, and faithfilled as a child's.

Be sure to tell your children that you would be glad to pray with them whenever they want. Sometimes more will be revealed to you about them and what's going on in their lives in a single prayer request, and you will gain insight that you might not have had otherwise. If you have never prayed with them before, apologize for that and tell them you intend to make up for lost time now. They will appreciate your prayers, and you will gain a deeper relationship with them.

In this book are many examples of how a child prayed and God answered the prayer. There are numerous descriptions, explanations, and definitions of prayer that are related to a child's life, age, and environment. There are stories of prayer that come from the Bible. Also included are examples of prayers which can be prayed regarding specific situations. There are also places where a child can write out his or her own prayers. All this will encourage a

child to pray from the heart and develop a meaningful and fruitful prayer life.

I taught my children how to pray by first praying for *them*. They heard me pray and imitated what I did. Then I had *them* pray on their own. Just little prayers at first. For the dog's sore foot. For a friend at school. For a test they had to take. For God's protection. And we saw so many answers to those prayers. I have never hesitated to have my children pray for me or anyone else for things I knew they could understand at the particular age they were. Now my children are grown up, and I don't have to ask them to pray anymore. They just do it. Prayer is an important part of their lives.

I remember when my son was ten and I had a very bad headache. He came in my room and said, "Can I pray for you, Mom?" I loved that he asked *me* before I even had a chance to ask *him.* Shortly after he prayed, my headache went away.

Never underestimate the power of a praying kid.





id you know that you can talk to God? Well, you can. Talking to God is called praying. Prayer is communicating with God. God loves it when you talk to Him. And no matter what time it is or where you are, He is always waiting to hear from you.

God says that you can come to Him anytime you want to. You don't even have to have a special reason. Just like you don't have to have a special reason to talk to your friends. You just talk to them because you like them. You can also talk to God like a friend too. That's because He is your friend. He says that if you love Him, He will call you His friend. You can talk to God just because you want to be with your friend.

How Do I Pray?

You can pray loudly or softly. That means you can pray so loud that everyone around you can hear you. Or you can pray so softly that only you and God can hear. God even hears you when you pray silently in your mind. You can pray "Lord, help me to do well today" in your mind and He can hear it. That's because God hears your thoughts.

The Bible tells us how to pray. It tells us how powerful our prayers are. When you read your Bible, your faith grows stronger and you find it easier to believe that God will answer your prayers. Do you have a Bible? ______. If you don't, ask someone to buy one for you that is easy for kids to read and understand.

Where Can I Pray?

You can pray anywhere. Because you can pray loudly or softly or even silently, that means you can pray anywhere you are. It doesn't matter what you are doing. You can pray while you are standing, running, sitting, jumping, or when you're lying down. You can pray in a noisy, crowded room with people. You can pray alone in your bed. You can pray in a car while you are traveling somewhere. You can pray when you are sitting quietly doing your schoolwork. Or you can pray when you're outside walking or doing something fun. No matter where you are or what you are doing, God always hears you.

When you want to show special love and respect for God, you can go to a quiet place and kneel and bow your head. Jesus did that when He wanted to show special love and respect for His heavenly Father. Where do you pray most often?

When Can I Pray?

You can talk to God anytime you want. Day or night. It's just like talking on the telephone, only you don't have to dial a number. All you have to do is call His name and He is there for you. Isn't that easy?

You can even call
God in the middle of
the night and He will be
there. You can go up to
the top of the tallest moun-

Places Where Most Kids Pray

- "In my room"—Benjamin (9)
- "At church"—Christopher (7)
- "On my way to school"—Kaylie (11)
- "In bed at night"—Alex (11)
- "At the dinner table"—Cory (7)
- "In the car"—Miranda (10)
- "In the shower"—Samantha (9)
- "Anywhere"—Corynna (8)
- "In restaurants"—Dylan (10)
- "At school"—Austin (10)
- "Beside my bed"—Sophia (8)
- "At home"—Danielle (12)
- "Everywhere"—Jessee (12)
 - "Wherever I am at the time"— Landrie (10)

tain. Or in the middle of the ocean. Or to

another country. And God will still hear you calling Him and He will answer. You will never get a busy signal. He will never hang up on you. Because your prayers are so important to Him, you always have a direct line to God's heart.

God cares about what is in your heart. He cares about your concerns. Anything that concerns you concerns Him. God says He wants you to "pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17). That means He wants you to pray often. It doesn't mean you have to pray every moment. It just means that you should pray whenever you think of something that needs praying about.

That's like saying, "Lord, help me do well on this test." "Lord, bless my mom and dad at work today." "Lord, keep me safe." "Lord,

help me to do my best in the game on Saturday." "Lord, make my friend well." It's praying about everything you can think of anytime you think of it.

What Did Jesus Say About Kids?

Of all the people in the world, children are the most special to God. The Bible tell us how much Jesus loved children of all ages. Back when He lived on earth, He would not let His disciples keep children away from Him. One time there were many people bringing their little children to Jesus just so He could touch them.

Times When Most Kids Feel Like Praying

- When I am alone.
- When I am afraid.
- When my relatives are hurt.
- When friends go through a hard time.
- When I'm in my room.
- When something bad happens.
- When I am sad.
- When I really need something.
- When I am alone in God's creation.
- When I need to talk to Him.
 - When I'm done reading my Bible.
 - When I go to bed so I won't have bad dreams.

His disciples told the people not to

bother Him like that. But Jesus saw what was happening, and He didn't like what the disciples were doing. He said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them. The kingdom of God belongs to such as these" (Mark 10:14 NIV).

Those are very strong words.

That means that everything God has, He will give to you just because you are a child. And if you have invited Jesus to live in your heart, then you are one of His special kids. Having Jesus living in your heart doesn't mean that His body is inside your body. It means His Spirit is inside your spirit. When

you receive Jesus, He sends His Holy Spirit to dwell inside of you in the special place in your heart that He designed for His Spirit to stay.

Jesus also said to the people and His disciples that adults can only enter His kingdom if they come to Him as a child comes. A child comes with trust, love, honesty, hope, gladness, and eagerness. Adults have a lot to learn from children.

After Jesus said all that to the people and His disciples, He laid His hands on the children and blessed them. Do you think the children probably opened their hearts to Jesus and received Him into their lives that day? _____.

Jesus wants you to open your heart and receive Him into your life too. Have you received Jesus into your heart? If you have never received Jesus into your heart, would you like to do that now? If you would like to receive Jesus, just say the following words to Him:

Lord Jesus, I love You. I invite You to come into my heart. Please forgive me of anything I have ever done wrong. Teach me how to always live Your way.

Now write down the date and your age so you will always remember when you received Jesus:

Month	Day	Year	A	{e

If you have already received Jesus, write down the date and age above when you received Him. If you don't remember the date, just write down your age when you received Jesus.

Children Are Important to God

All the people who believe in Jesus are called "the body of Christ." Children are the most important part of it. That is because they are so pure.

I have this big machine at home. One time it broke down and wouldn't run anymore. When the repair man came to fix it, he said all it needed was one tiny little part that had broken. The machine was very large, and the part that was broken was very small, but the machine couldn't run without it.

The body of Christ is like the big machine. Children are like the tiny part. God says that although every part is important, the littlest part is the most important. The big machine doesn't run well without it. Children are the most important part of the body of Christ because they have pure hearts and can easily receive God's love.

One day the disciples came to Jesus and asked Him, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" (Matthew 18:1 NIV). Then Jesus called a little child over to them and answered, "Unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 18:3 NIV). He said, "Whoever humbles himself like this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven" (verse 4 NIV).

That means in order for anyone to be great in the kingdom of heaven, they have to become humble and pure in heart like a child is.

Jesus told people something else about children that is very important for you to know. He said that adults should not look down on little children because their angels always see the face of

His Father in heaven (Matthew 18:10). That means you always have a guardian angel watching over you, and that angel is always close enough to God to see His face. That means you are very important to God.

What Kids Pray

Dear Lord, I pray for everyone in my family. I pray that I will be more respectful to my parents. I pray that I will be thankful for what I have.

Landrie (10)

God Loves Everyone, Especially Kids

God loves kids. The Bible says so. That's why He always hears a child's prayer. In fact, He tells adults that they better start acting like children in their hearts if they want God to listen to their prayers.

Jesus showed how much He loved children when He was on earth. He used to pick them up and hold them. He laid His hands on them and blessed them. And He loves them just as much now that He is in heaven. He will love you the same tomorrow as He loves you today. He will love you the same every day. God says that children are a precious gift from Him and adults had better understand that and not forget it.

Jesus said, "Whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes *me*" (Matthew 18:5 NIV, emphasis added). That means you are so important to God, and He loves you so much,

that every time someone is kind to you, it's the same as if they were being kind to God. And that makes God happy.

You may be small, but your prayers are important to God. That's why when you pray, big things can happen.

Pray in Jesus' Name

One of the things Jesus told us in the Bible about prayer is that we should pray in His name. He said, "If you ask anything in My name, I will do it" (John 14:14). Using Jesus' name gives us a lot of influence with God.

It's like knocking on someone's door and saying, "I know your son, and he is a close friend of mine." And they say, "Well, any friend of my son is a friend of mine. Come on in and tell me what I can do for you." When we talk to God and say, "In Jesus' name, I pray," it's like we are telling God, "I know Your Son, and He is a close friend of mine." And it's like God saying back to us, "If you know My Son, then come on in to My presence and tell Me what you need Me to do for you." Our prayers are more powerful when we pray in Jesus' name.

When You Talk to God, He Talks to You

When you talk to God, He sometimes speaks back to you. You don't actually hear His voice because He is speaking to your heart. He tells you things. He might tell you to do this or do that. Or don't go this way; go that other way instead. Or He might help you to understand something. Or He might give you a clear idea about what to do in a certain situation. Or He might just be telling you how much He loves you or how pleased He is with you.

Sometimes we do so much of the talking when we pray that we forget to be silent for a few moments to allow God to speak to our heart. When you pray, it's important to say, "Lord, speak to my heart and tell me what I should know." Then wait for a minute or two and see if God will speak to your heart about something. He might show you some more things to pray about that you wouldn't have thought of before.

One time I lost an important book that I needed, and I couldn't find it anywhere. I was so upset about it because I had spent a lot of time looking for it. When I prayed and asked God to show me where it was, I saw a picture in my mind of the couch in the living room. I ran there to look and, sure enough, there was the book on the floor behind the couch. I forgot that I had laid the book on the back of the couch before dinner, and it must have fallen down behind it. I knew God had spoken to my heart about it and revealed where it was.

God Answered My Prayer

One time I lost my homework paper that I had been working hard on. It was due the next morning, so I prayed with my mom that God would help me find it. He didn't answer that prayer right away, but the next morning when I prayed again, God showed me in my mind where to look for it. I found it accidentally stuck in with some other papers where it wasn't supposed to be.

Amanda (10)

There was a young boy in the Bible who *did* hear God's voice speaking to Him, but he didn't know who it was. His name was Samuel. He was a lot like us. God sometimes speaks to our hearts, but we don't realize it. We are not expecting to hear from Him, so we don't understand that He is trying to tell us something.

God wants to speak to your heart more than you realize. Whenever you pray a prayer in Jesus' name, ask God to speak to you. Then take a moment or two to listen, and you will learn to hear His gentle and quiet voice in your heart. You may not hear anything specific except a quiet sense of peace, and that is enough.



Dear Lord, I thank You that You love me and You hear me when I talk to You. Help me learn to pray more. Help me to pray about everything. Thank You for Your answers to my prayers. Teach me to hear You speaking to my heart and guiding me every day. In Jesus' name I pray.

Dear Lord, the other things I want to pray about today are...



Whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive.

Matthew 21:22