

The Power of a
PRAYING[®]
Wife

DEVOTIONAL

STORMIE
OMARTIAN



HARVEST HOUSE PUBLISHERS
EUGENE, OREGON

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture verses are taken from the New King James Version. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Verses marked NASB are taken from the New American Standard Bible®, © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission. (www.Lockman.org)

Verses marked NIV are taken from The Holy Bible, *New International Version*® NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

Verses marked KJV are taken from the King James Version of the Bible.

Cover by Harvest House Publishers, Inc., Eugene, Oregon

Cover illustration © Komar art / Shutterstock

Back cover author photo © Michael Gomez Photography

THE POWER OF A PRAYING is a registered trademark of The Hawkins Children's LLC. Harvest House Publishers, Inc., is the exclusive licensee of the federally registered trademark THE POWER OF A PRAYING.

THE POWER OF A PRAYING® WIFE DEVOTIONAL

Copyright © 2011 by Stormie Omartian

Published by Harvest House Publishers

Eugene, Oregon 97402

www.harvesthousepublishers.com

ISBN 978-0-7369-5889-9 (Softcover)

ISBN 978-0-7369-5890-5 (eBook)

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, digital, photocopy, recording, or any other—except for brief quotations in printed reviews, without the prior permission of the publisher.

Printed in the United States of America

14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 / BP-NI / 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

*I will give you a new heart
and put a new spirit within you.*

EZEKIEL 36:26

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

MATTHEW 21:22

CONTENTS

How Can This Praying Wife Devotional Help Me?	11
1. When I Desire Greater Persistence in Prayer	17
2. When He Needs to Walk Closer to Jesus	20
3. When We Must Work Together in Unity	23
4. When I Need to Trust God in the Situation.	26
5. When He Must Make the Right Decision	29
6. When We Need to Have Better Communication	32
7. When I Don't Feel Like Praying for Him	35
8. When He Needs a Better Attitude	38
9. When We Must Break Our Silence	41
10. When I Have to Rise Above the Things That Irritate Me	44
11. When He Needs to Understand the Power of His Own Words	47
12. When We Want to See Answers to Our Prayers	50
13. When I Have to Confess Something to My Husband.	53
14. When He Must Hear What I Have to Tell Him	56
15. When We Need to Talk Things Out	59
16. When I Want to Be More Like Jesus.	62
17. When He Must Say He's Sorry	65
18. When We Want God to Breathe New Life into Our Marriage	68
19. When I Am Disappointed in Him	71
20. When He Needs Direction	74
21. When We Want the Kind of Love That Pleases God	77

22. When I Need to Be Delivered from Bad Habits	80
23. When He Carries a Heavy Burden	83
24. When We Need God's Power on Our Behalf	86
25. When I Know I Must Speak Pleasant Words	89
26. When He Needs Freedom from Destructive Behavior	92
27. When We Should Not Rush into Anything	95
28. When I Must Rethink My Expectations	98
29. When He Needs Deliverance from Fear	101
30. When We Must Recognize the Enemy's Lies	104
31. When I Long to Excel in What I Do	107
32. When He Needs a Change of Mind	110
33. When We Must Make Each Other a Priority	113
34. When I Want Reassurance of My Place in the Marriage	116
35. When He Needs the Leading of God About His Occupation	119
36. When We Must Get Out of Debt	122
37. When I Need to Show More Affection	125
38. When He Must Be Gone a Short Time	128
39. When We Want Freedom from Depression	131
40. When I Find It Difficult to Trust Him	134
41. When He Must Sow in the Spirit and Not the Flesh	137
42. When We Seek Protection from Sexual Immorality	140
43. When I Need to Show Him Honor and Respect	143
44. When He Has Lost Vision for Tomorrow	146
45. When We Need to Remember the Purpose of Family	149
46. When I Have Wrong Thoughts	152

47. When He Must Find the Liberty God Has for Him.	155
48. When We Should Be in Agreement About Our Children	158
49. When I Need to Build Him Up.	161
50. When He Has Done Something That Is Hard to Forgive	164
51. When We Need Financial Wisdom	167
52. When I Want the Inward Renewal Only God Can Give	170
53. When He Has Unrest in His Mind.	173
54. When We Need a New Perspective	176
55. When I Must Apologize	179
56. When He Needs to Be Selfless	182
57. When We Seek God's Provision.	185
58. When I Desire to Make Our House a Sanctuary	188
59. When He Needs to Put Away All Anger	191
60. When We Must Send Our Children the Right Message	194
61. When I Need to Sense His Love for Me.	197
62. When He Must Not Take Our Marriage for Granted	200
63. When We Need Others to Pray with Us	203
64. When I Don't Want to Nag	206
65. When He Needs God to Establish His Work.	209
66. When We Must Put a Stop to Strife.	212
67. When I Need to Confess My Attitude	215
68. When He Seeks Financial Blessings.	218
69. When We Need to Simplify Our Lives.	221
70. When I Have Lost Sight of Our Future	224

71. When He Must Stay on the Path God Has for Him	227
72. When We Should Be Anxious for Nothing	230
73. When I Think of Divorce as an Option	233
74. When He Leaves Home for an Extended Time	236
75. When We Must Become One	239
76. When I Need Emotional Restoration	242
77. When He Is Injured	245
78. When We Need God's Word to Come Alive in Us	248
79. When I Want to Be Transformed	251
80. When He Must Make Peace with His Father	254
81. When We Need to Resist All Sexual Pollution	257
82. When I Should Take Better Care of My Body	260
83. When He Needs to Have a Cheerful Heart	263
84. When We Have to Agree Concerning Intimacy	266
85. When I Must Forgive All Other People	269
86. When He Needs to Know His Heavenly Father	272
87. When We Must Trust God to Work Everything Out for Good	275
88. When I Want a Gentle and Quiet Spirit	278
89. When He Needs to Provide for His Family	281
90. When We Are Imprisoned by Our Own Contention	284
91. When I Want to Be a "Virtuous Wife"	287
92. When He Needs to Speak Well-Chosen Words	290
93. When We Must Stand Strong	293
94. When I Have Anger in My Heart	296
95. When He Has Temptation Invading His Mind	299
96. When We Desire the Crown of Life	302

97. When I Want God's Love to Be Seen in Me	305
98. When He Needs Healing	308
99. When We Must Become Like-Minded	311
100. When I Need to Know Good Things Are Ahead	314

How Can This Praying Wife Devotional Help Me?



IF I HAD IT TO DO ALL OVER AGAIN, I would not write *The Power of a Praying® Wife* any differently than I did. However, in this new *The Power of a Praying® Wife Devotional*, I am sharing what the Lord has taught me about being a praying wife in the years since writing the earlier book.

First of all, I have included much more prayer in this book for you as a wife. In fact, one-third of the book consists of devotions and prayers for you to pray for *yourself*. A second third includes devotions and prayers for you to pray for your *husband*, and a last third has devotions and prayers for you to pray for your *marriage*. But I have not grouped these thirds separately into “me,” “him, and “us” sections. I have, instead, alternated prayers for wife, husband, and marriage throughout the book so that every

three devotions includes one of each—that is, one for you, one for your husband, and one for your marriage. The reason for that is I believe all three types of prayer are crucial to sustaining a solid marriage.

What you might not realize is how extremely important it is to pray for yourself as a wife. Women tend to neglect themselves in this way, and it is vital to your marriage not to do so. When you pray for yourself, you affect your spirit, soul, body, wholeness, insight, understanding, strength, and freedom in Christ more than you think. Personal prayer increases your ability to receive revelation from God. That's because, as you pray, God gives you the ability to see what is really going on in your own world and in the spirit realm. For example, you become aware of when your flesh may be dominating your spirit, or when the enemy of your soul is attempting to stir up strife and present his lies as truth. These things are crucial to you as a wife in being able to maintain a good, strong marriage—at least, as much as is dependent upon you.

All of this means you must still pray the “Change me, Lord” prayer. (I know that is not as much fun as praying the “Change *him*, Lord” prayer, but, unfortunately, that one seldom, if ever, is answered.) But now you have to take the “Change me, Lord” prayer to the next level and pray that God will show you everything you need to see about yourself. You must ask God to reveal what you should know and help you do what you need to do. For example, you can pray that God will enable you to keep worry, fear, doubt, and unclear thinking from getting in the way of your life and affecting what you do and say. God wants you to give *Him* control over your mind and heart. While He gave you the ability to feel, He doesn't want your feelings or emotions to rule you in a way that makes both you and your husband

miserable. He wants you to bring all your feelings and emotions to Him—your Lord and confidant—and put them in the hands and under the control of the Holy Spirit. The devotions and prayers in this book will help you do that.

Another reason praying for yourself is important is because, as you grow older, you especially need the beauty of a quiet and gentle spirit. In order for that to happen, you must have the beauty of the Lord *in* you, beautifying every part of your inner-self—which affects the beauty of your outer-self more than anything else. A woman with a beautiful heart, soul, and mind is more attractive to everyone, but most importantly to her husband. Part of being attractive is exhibiting the fruit of the Spirit. In order to do that, you must surrender your heart and soul to the Holy Spirit more and more. Every day you can say, “Lord, fill me afresh with the fruit of Your Spirit. Overflow me with Your love, joy, and peace. Teach me to be patient, kind, and good by growing in me Your longsuffering, kindness, and goodness. Help me to exhibit Your faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control” (Galatians 5:22-23).

This book will also help you truly understand that you belong to Jesus and that “those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires” (Galatians 5:24). This doesn’t mean you are passionless toward your husband. It means that the “I want what I want” in the way of expectations of him doesn’t supersede the importance of “I want what *God* wants” in your attitude and mind. In order to want what God wants, you must walk in the Spirit (Galatians 5:25). When we live controlled by the flesh and not the Holy Spirit, nothing good comes of it. We end up thinking about ourselves and what *we* want and not what *God* wants. When we crucify our fleshly desires—and live in the Spirit so that we walk in the Spirit—we don’t “become

conceited, provoking one another, envying one another” (Galatians 5:26). We become more like the Lord instead. And that’s what we all want.

These devotions and prayers will also help your husband to better hear from God, to increase his understanding of God’s truth, to grow in strength and peace, and to gain proper perspective on various situations and challenges he may be facing. I have included many of the common attitudes and struggles found in most marriages. Each prayer for the two of you will help you both be more and more led by the Holy Spirit so that you can do what’s right without allowing such things as negative reactions to each other get in the way.

One of the revelations I have personally received from the Lord in the last few years has been that I have a *choice* about my attitude and how I am going to react to my husband every day. Of course, I *knew* that, but knowing and doing are two different things. If I am irritated about something, I have to *decide* if I am going to act irritated when I talk to him for the next week. Or am I going to talk it out with him and choose to speak words that unite and not words that separate? Am I going to make sure that the first words I speak to him in the morning—or when I haven’t seen him for a while—are pleasant and uplifting? These devotions and prayers help me make the right choice every day, and they will help you too.

If your husband is not yet a believer, I have not given you a separate prayer to pray in each devotion for him. That’s because it is best to pray each day for his salvation. Say, “Lord, I pray You would open my husband’s eyes to Your truth and lead him to salvation in You. Help him to know You, Jesus, and receive You as his Savior and Redeemer.” Then pray the prayers in this book for him just as if he were already a believer, always thanking

God that He is leading your husband closer to salvation every day. The more you pray for your husband this way, the more his heart will become sensitive to the Holy Spirit's promptings. Even though he is not yet a believer, God can still speak to him. Your prayers can clear the air of worldly noise around his mind and heart so he can hear God better. Don't become discouraged and feel as though nothing is happening. If you are praying, then something is *definitely* happening. No matter how resistant your husband is to his own breakthrough, he is not too tough for God to break through to and save.

You can read this book straight through from beginning to end, or you can let the titles of each devotion lead you to the one that addresses what you are facing, experiencing, or needing right then. I pray you will meet the Lord in these Scriptures, devotions, and prayers in a new and powerful way, and see wonderful changes in you, your husband, and your marriage that only *He* can make.

Stormie Omartian

When I Desire Greater Persistence in Prayer

*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing,
in everything give thanks;
for this is the will of God in
Christ Jesus for you.*

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18

AS A WIFE, you need the kind of prayer habit that doesn't give up or allow discouragement to get in the way, but instead persists and keeps on praying and asking.

When God told Abraham He intended to determine if Sodom was deserving of destruction, Abraham then interceded, praying on behalf of however many righteous people might be there. He asked God if He would destroy Sodom if fifty righteous people were found there, and the Lord said He would not. Abraham then asked if He would destroy the city if forty-five

righteous people were found there, then forty people, then thirty, then twenty. Each time Abraham asked, God said He would not destroy it for that many people. Finally Abraham said, “Suppose ten should be found there?” And God said, “I will not destroy it for the sake of ten” (Genesis 18:32). As it turned out, only four righteous people were there, so God destroyed it. But Abraham had stopped asking at ten.

We need the kind of persistence in prayer that causes us to continue asking as Abraham did. Too often we stop short. Perhaps Abraham stopped asking because he couldn’t imagine that there wouldn’t be at least ten righteous people in Sodom. Or perhaps by then God had proved His point and revealed His intentions. God knew the city was wicked enough to destroy, but He saved the four righteous people—which were Lot, his wife, and their two daughters (Genesis 19:29).

Your prayers are powerful to save too. So keep asking and continue seeking, and don’t ask for crumbs when God wants to give you the banquet. When it comes to praying for you and your husband and your marriage, ask God to help you persist in prayer for even what may seem impossible. Ask for your marriage to not only be saved, but to be good. Ask for it to not only be good, but to be great. God doesn’t say “No” to what is His will. If your husband has a strong will that refuses to submit to God’s will, persist in praying that God’s will wins out.

❧ *My Prayer to God* ❧

LORD, I pray You would help me to be persistent in prayer—to ask and keep asking for what I believe is Your will. I know anything less than love, selflessness, kindness, peace, and generosity of soul is not Your will in my relationship with

my husband. Help me to persist in praying for nothing less than the high standard You have for our marriage. Give me a vision of how You want me to pray. Show me the way You want our marriage to be and help me to pray accordingly so that it becomes all that.

I know I cannot force my husband's will to be anything other than what it is, but You can touch his heart and turn it toward You. I pray You would do that. May he welcome Your Lordship in his life. Help me to pray consistently and passionately, and to persevere no matter what is happening. I thank You in advance for the great things You are going to do in both of us and in our marriage.

In Jesus' name I pray.





When He Needs to Walk Closer to Jesus

*I am the vine, you are the branches.
He who abides in Me, and I in him,
bears much fruit; for without
Me you can do nothing.*

JOHN 15:5

HAVE YOU EVER OBSERVED your husband becoming so busy or preoccupied that he seems to be drifting away from the things and ways of the Lord? It can easily happen to anyone if they are not careful to stay in God's Word and in constant communication with the Lord in prayer and worship. If you ever see this happening to your husband, pray for him to recognize that Jesus is the vine he must be plugged into or he will not bear fruit. Pray he will come to a clear understanding that he cannot accomplish anything lasting without Jesus in his life. Pray he recognizes that God wants to be glorified by the fruitfulness

of his life (John 15:8). Pray the same thing for yourself as well. You need to be plugged into Jesus too so that you are living in Him and He is living in you. You cannot bear the fruit you want to see in your life if you don't have that deep abiding walk with Him every day and night.

If your husband does not yet have a walk with Jesus, continue to pray for that. Ask God to draw him closer to Himself, so that one day the Giver of fruitfulness will enable both of you to bear fruit together beyond what you ever dreamed possible. There isn't a husband on earth who couldn't benefit from his wife's prayers for him to have a closer walk with the Lord. And your happiness together will be greatly affected by it.

✧ My Prayer to God ✧

LORD, I pray my husband will be drawn into a closer walk with You. No matter how busy he becomes, I pray You will remind him that he cannot go off on his own without acknowledging You as the source of all that is good in his life. Give him the wisdom and discernment to see when he is becoming distracted by other things and neglecting his relationship with You. Give him a desire for more of You and Your Word. Enable him to see clearly that without You he can do nothing worthwhile or lasting. Give him a desire to plug into You in a deeper way, so that his connection with You produces great fruit in his life. Show me how to encourage and support him in that. Only You know what will speak to his heart.

I pray the same for me, that I will abide in You—my true vine—and You in me so that my life will bear much fruit in every way. Enable my husband and me to be fruitful

together. Flow Your life through us in such a way that others see it and recognize You as the source of all that is good in our lives. May they know us by our fruit and praise You for it.

In Jesus' name I pray.



When We Must Work Together in Unity



*Behold, how good and how pleasant it is
for brethren to dwell together in unity!*

PSALM 133:1

AFTER THE FLOOD, Noah's descendents grew greatly in numbers, and they had only one language. They decided to build a city with a tower that would rise up to heaven. The Lord saw what they were doing and said, "Indeed *the people are one and they all have one language*, and this is what they begin to do; *now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them*" (Genesis 11:6, emphasis added). So God confused their language, scattered them over the earth, and caused them to stop building the city—which was called Babel.

From this story we can see the power of unity and speaking the same language. Because the people of Babel were in unity,

they could accomplish anything they wanted to. But the negative consequences of their unity happened because they were not doing what God wanted them to do, and so He had to stop them. It's different in a marriage. Having unity is what keeps a marriage together, and that is what God wants. It is *His will* that you be in *unity* with your husband, and that you *speak the same language*, and *be on the same page*, for then you are fulfilling the purpose for which He joined you together.

Pray that you and your husband will be in unity with regard to your goals, attitudes, intentions, methods, and actions. Jesus said, "If two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven" (Matthew 18:19). Pray you will agree on what you are praying about and wanting. When you do, you will see powerful answers to your prayers. Nothing will stand in your way when the two of you are united in God's purpose for your lives.

❧ *My Prayer to God* ❧

LORD, I pray You would help my husband and me to always be on the same page and speak the same language. When there are times we are not communicating well—where we seem to be missing each other's intentions, or we too often misunderstand each other's words—I pray Your perfect wisdom and knowledge would prevail between us. By the power of Your Spirit, I pray You would enable us to always have a clear understanding of each other and whatever situation we are in. Help us to resist the enemy—the author of confusion, lies, and deceit—and refuse to give place to any of his plans for our relationship as husband and wife. I pray that

only You, Lord, will reign in our marriage, and that only Your Spirit of love and peace will rule between us.

You have said in Your Word that there isn't anything people cannot do when they are in unity (Genesis 11:6). I pray our unity means there is nothing we cannot do to make our marriage strong, and there is nothing the enemy can do to come between us. Enable us to pray together in unity so that we will see powerful answers to prayer, and that nothing of Your goodness and blessing will be withheld from our lives.

In Jesus' name I pray.

