

# CRAFTED PRAYER

THE JOY OF  
ALWAYS GETTING  
YOUR PRAYERS ANSWERED

**GRAHAM COOKE**

AN INTERACTIVE JOURNAL

BOOK 2  
BEING WITH GOD SERIES



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Book design by Natalie McGuire Designs, LLC.  
Crafted Prayer, 1st edition ©2003

BRILLIANT BOOK HOUSE  
PO BOX 871450  
Vancouver, WA, 98687

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ISBN 978-1-934771-01-3

# DEDICATION

There is only one Person I can dedicate this book to—the Holy Spirit. I am constantly amazed at His wisdom, revelation, and power in my life. I love His dedication to, and His passion for, the Lord Jesus Christ. The way He reveals the Son to me has changed my life. His physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual representation of the Father to me has continuously made me more excited and in awe of the great love of God for me.

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Families are the bedrock of life. They supply the love, belief, laughter, determination and focus to enable each member to grow in confidence and take on seemingly impossible things. Wives, sons, daughters and grandchildren become the world that we look through along with our friends.

We work, persevere, build, persist and develop with them in mind. Their love, acceptance and support acts as a catalyst for all that we attempt. They lift us beyond measure into a place in Christ that contains more than we imagine.

Heather, Ben, Seth, Sophie and partners. Theresa, Alexis and Alyssa. Our wonderful grandchildren. All have contributed to the fullness of my ongoing life experience.

The brilliant friends that I have walked with for several decades. The amazing leaders and ministries that have graced my life. The Radiance Community in Santa Barbara, a grand company with whom to explore life and fullness in Jesus!

Finally, to the one in the coffee house who started this journey and the God who sustains it.

# INTRODUCTION

The time has come for a new way of prayer. Paradoxically, this new method is actually an ancient way of prayer, one in which God's faithful servants like David and Paul flourished. I call it crafted prayer, and this journal will teach you how to make it part of your life. The miracles I have seen as a result of crafted prayer are too numerous for me to record. There is such a joy in being able to pray exactly what God wills for a person, and seeing His answer unfold before your very eyes. This type of prayer can transform Christians from living in a persistent widow mindset (Luke 18:1–8) into living in joyous, bride-like intercession. Allow me to explain.

I believe God is taking many into a new season of intimate, bride-like prayer. Real warfare in the Kingdom of God is always concerned with the battle for intimacy. This is a time to come off the battlefield and enter a new place of intimate petition. Too many intercessors have become exhausted and too burned out to continue praying the way the Church has been advocating. As we learn to become conformed to God and His nature, and be transformed in our minds and personalities, He will teach us to look beyond the natural into the supernatural realm and see the Kingdom of Heaven at work in every need. It will no longer matter what life, people, or even the enemy throw at us, because we will be able to hear the conversation in Heaven and understand that God is at work all around us.

I believe God is raising up an army of Esthers, an army of bridal intercessors, and it is a time to come off the wall and rest in the throne room presence of God—in our secret place in Him. It will be difficult for some people to come out of ministry and move into the discipline of resting in God, but the discipline of rest must be entered; it is a time of laying down ministry to gain fresh intimacy.

Don't pray with importunity, like the widow before the unjust judge in Luke 18, but pray with delight and favor. Don't pray against the enemy, but let your delighted prayers cause the King to stir Himself and come down. God's anointing will cause you to intercede with joy so that His glory will fill the Earth. What is the glory of God? In Exodus 33:18–19, when Moses asked God to show His glory, God said He would cause His goodness to pass before him. One of the glories of God, therefore, is that He is good!

As bridal intercessors, it will be our joy and delight to pray for the goodness of God to come down so that the Church can learn that we really do overcome evil with good. The Holy Spirit will give us a new strategy for prayer and perseverance; one that contains delight and laughter, and is full of ardent and passionate love, bathed in fresh worship, and birthed out of a deeper intimacy. I believe crafted prayer is part of this shift.

As we come and petition the Lord out of this place of closeness, He will be pleased to speak into our hearts His favor and blessing. Not only will our prayers move His heart and heads, but the words we receive from Him will be like a balm of Gilead across the nations, and churches will rise up in fresh favor. The

attention of the Church will be taken off the enemy and put on the King of kings.

Let us pray that a revelation of the Lord's love for us would fill our hearts, that we may come into a whole new place of spirituality, a whole new place of walking with Him, where we will be convinced that God loves us, cares for us and is for us—and that He wants us to succeed. Amen!

*Graham Cooke*

CRAFTED  
**PRAYER**



*“And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive,”* Jesus preached in Matthew 21:22. Why, then, do we seemingly receive so few answers to prayer today? Was Jesus lying to us? Of course not! The issue, then, must be our own—we must not believe what we are praying. Prayer, as it is taught today in most churches, doesn’t work. Most of us have been brought up in a tradition that when something bad happens, prayer must begin immediately. This seems reasonable and even righteous, but on a deeper level, it actually hinders the power of God to work on our behalf. In my experience in churches and friendships, I have seen that when we pray too soon, we usually pray in unbelief. We find ourselves praying out of the shock or trauma of the situation itself, and we pray out of our panic, our worry, our anxiety, and our concern.

For example, a church member is diagnosed with a serious illness. Immediately, our compassion rises up and we burst into prayer. We use a shotgun approach, spraying Heaven with every imaginable request. “Well, Father, I pray this,” we start. Then another thought enters our mind, so we switch tracks: “Oh, Father, I pray that.” Doubt attacks us and our prayer shifts again. “Well, Lord, if it be Your will, I pray this,” and “Father, I pray that you might want to think about doing this.” Our love for the person involved prompts us to remind God of how valuable he or she is to Him: “Well, Lord, you know he is a faithful servant.” God now has to sift through a blizzard of prayer thrown up within a few minutes, a storm further thickened if there is more than one intercessor. You can forgive God for sitting there and thinking, “What is this? Multiple choice?”

Sadly, our prayers have stopped being about the person in need, and have become our effort to try and find God. We have actually forgotten to pray what God actually wants to do, and have begun our own search for Him. We shouldn't be using prayer to find God; that's what

thanksgiving is for. The Bible is clear: it's not with prayer that we enter His gates, it's with thanksgiving.

*"Rejoice always,"* Paul wrote in 1 Thessalonians 5:16–18, *"Pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."* Prayer, in the initial stage, is not about speaking. It's about listening and reading. It's about thanking God because, of the billions of people who walk the Earth, Christians are supposed to be the most relaxed and the most grateful. We are called to be the Disneyland of faiths—the happiest people on Earth. Even on the toughest days, the joy of the Lord is a force of strength for us. If we are filled with the fullness of God, we behave in ways unlike the world around us. There is no place of worry or panic in the Christian's life. Faith and anxiety cannot exist in the same space at the same time. One of them has to go, and you have the power to choose which.

We must come before God with thanksgiving, but He is not asking us to become a supernatural masochist: "Oh, I thank thee Lord, that I hath crashed my car." No! What we're thanking God for is the reality of His presence. "I will never leave you or forsake you," God promised.

DON'T PRAY TO ESCAPE TROUBLE. DON'T PRAY TO BE COMFORTABLE IN YOUR EMOTIONS. PRAY TO DO THE WILL OF GOD IN EVERY SITUATION. NOTHING ELSE IS WORTH PRAYING FOR.  
SAMUEL M. SHOEMAKER

## THANKSGIVING

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We can thank God first, in every situation, because every problem we encounter comes with His provision attached to it. God has a plan and a purpose for us; He says that everything works together for those who love Him. That promise is a deep well of provision for us. Whatever calamity life throws at us, God can use it for our blessing and our benefit. *“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose,”* Paul wrote in Romans 8:28. It is that attribute of God’s nature that makes it so critical for us to come to a place of thanksgiving. By entering His presence in the midst of our problem, He can act on our behalf. Our heart may be all over the place, but there is a central place of truth where we gather—in the goodness of God.

*“Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms,”* David sang in Psalm 95:2. At all times, we need to rejoice, praying something like this: “Thank You that You are with me in this. I don’t know how You’re going to work it out, but I know that You’re with me because You said You would be, and that’s enough for me. I don’t have to feel Your presence, Your word is enough. Thank You.”

SOMETIMES WE MAKE PRAISE A PRISONER TO OUR EMOTIONS RATHER THAN A WAY OF RELEASING OUR INNER SELF TO GOD.

Gratitude is the bedrock of our life and worship. Often we fail to worship during the week, thinking Sundays or conferences are our time to worship. But worship is a part of every-day life. When we come before God, we must be thankful. We need to practice being grateful a lot more than we do. What are Christians supposed to sound like on Earth? Our voices should be heard, at all times, worshiping God. If our worship is built on a foundation of thankfulness, we must have a vision and a passion to be grateful. We also need a plan, for vision without strategy is just wishful thinking. We need to plan to enter God's presence with our thanksgiving, not our prayer. "Thank you Lord. I don't know how You're going to work this thing out but I know you will. I praise You. I worship You." And once we've come into His presence, we need to be still and listen to the heart of God.

IT IS IN THE PROCESS OF  
BEING WORSHIPPED THAT  
GOD COMMUNICATES HIS  
PRESENCE TO MEN.

C.S. LEWIS

## STILLNESS



Being still opens a channel of communication between us and Heaven. All of us have a background conversation going on in our minds. Head noise, as my friend, the British psychologist, Jim McNeish calls it, is an internal voice, a soundtrack for our

lives. It's similar to a special feature on a DVD: an ongoing, one-way, stream of consciousness conversation, commenting on our life as it unfolds. Stillness is not about getting somewhere quiet, although that often helps, but about stilling that voice in your head. It takes discipline to quiet that voice, but you must do it. And you can do it, because God is with you.

It is this initial head noise that we convert into “prayers” when we rush too quickly into intercession. Because we have not stilled ourselves, we pray in our own strength, and we come to God's door under the weight and panic of the circumstances facing us. We speak often and are rarely still—in fact, we are the complete opposite of God.

God is always still and He rarely speaks. So there is a difference between the Lord speaking *in* us, and the Lord speaking *to* us. When we say, “Oh, God spoke to me,” what has normally happened is that out of the storehouse of words, thoughts, meditations, and conversations, and Scripture we carry in our spirit, God has selected something previously said to you and brought it back into your consciousness. Like a computer user loading a file, God pulls up the treasure He has already saved in us. “Oh yeah,” we think. “That makes sense. That's the Lord speaking.” God punctuates His silence with words, and when God speaks, it's an event. When He speaks to you, something is imparted. His presence is profound. He spoke once, and the whole Earth was created. When God speaks something happens, something is shaken, something is created and produced. When the Lord speaks to us, there is always a dynamic residue of His presence which remains with us—it is a signature moment!

In Psalm 46:10, God told David, “*Be still, and know that I am God.*” It was a word that brought a profound sense of the presence of God to David in what were difficult circumstances. It’s interesting that Psalm 46 began with an earthquake and finished with “Be still.” Only God can talk about stillness in the midst of an earthquake. When the whole landscape of your life is shifting beneath your feet, only God can say, “Be still, and know that I am God.”

Knowledge of God comes through peace and stillness. God wants to send us into battle, but if we don’t find stillness beforehand, how will we ever find peace in the fight? Rest is our best weapon against the enemy, because rest allows us to hide in our secret place in God. The devil hates you with a malevolence and malignancy that is unimaginable, but he’s not stupid: he won’t chase you into the holy of holies—the very presence of God—because he knows who he’s going to meet there. We need to learn how to use God as our refuge, as our fortress, as our high place, as our secret place where the enemy cannot touch us. If the enemy cannot find you, he cannot hurt you. God has provided a secret place in Him for you.

PEACE IS THE POTTING  
SOIL OF REVELATION.  
JOHN PAUL JACKSON