



Conversation With God Kit includes:

- 8 copies of the book, *Conversation With God*
- The Spirit-Empowered Faith Set:
 - The list of 40 Indicators of what a Spirit-Empowered disciple of Christ might look like.
 - A self-assessment tool to help measure these 40 outcomes in your own life. This assessment helps you see how you are doing at embodying these 40 biblical principles.
 - Teaching notes in the form of sermon notes. These notes are broken down into 12 sections and could be used as small group leader notes, 12-part sermon series, or simply continued study and growth.

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I. Introduction

A. *Delivered from Evil!*

“This, then, is how you should pray: ‘Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one’” (Matthew 6:9–13).

When the disciples asked Jesus, “Teach us to pray,” they weren’t asking for a specific form of prayer; rather, they wanted to know how to engage in a life of prayer—a life of unbroken communion with the Father—the same type of communion Jesus enjoyed. The disciples had a sense that prayer was essential to truly “loving the Lord” with our heart, mind, soul, and strength (Matthew 22:37–40).

- We come to the Father in prayer in a lifestyle of praise for his goodness and his provision.
- In prayer, we have learned to trust our Father as our provider and to live in a state of communion with him, continually trusting that he will guide us and help us.
- We’ve learned to pray, “Your kingdom come,” and “Your will be done.” Saying, “Your will be done in my life,” carries the weight of forgiveness and selflessness and submission to the kingdom of God.
- Now we come to this part in the Lord’s Prayer, which many may not understand: “Lead us not into temptation” (Matthew 6:10). The New Living Translation renders it as, “Don’t let us yield to temptation.”

“Lead us not into temptation,” speaks of the reality that Satan comes against us with opportunities to sin. Sin is defined as disobedience to God’s desire for your life. Satan, offering us an opportunity or a temptation to sin, is exactly what Jesus is telling us to pray about. Sin seeks to destroy the Christ follower. When we sin, we are essentially submitting to the

works of Satan. At times, this has been described in Scripture as the “defilement of flesh and spirit” (2 Corinthians 7:1 NASB). It thwarts God’s ideal plan for our lives.

B. Strengthened by His Power



L-8 Disciplined, bold and believing prayer

Walk in the Light of God’s Word . . . Through Frequent Experiences of Scripture (John 12:35; Psalm 119:105)

“I can do all this through him who gives me strength” (Philippians 4:13).

None of us, in our own strength, have any hope of living an abundant life free from sin’s entrapment. It’s only persistent, prevailing prayer that is our open doorway into righteous living and changing the desires of our heart. Pray with one or two other people, making this declaration of helplessness:

“Lord, my power and strength are insufficient. I need you to change the desires of my heart and empower my freedom.”

Pray in faith this prayer of promise from Philippians 4:13 to be made real in you! Believe together that Jesus is present, sufficient, and available to empower your life of Christlikeness.

II. Jesus, Our Example and Advocate

“Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them” (Hebrews 7:25 NASB).

A. Following His Example

The Gospel of Matthew describes the battle Jesus fought through prayer in the garden of Gethsemane:

Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.” Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. “Couldn’t you men keep watch with me for one hour?” he asked Peter. “Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak” (Matthew 26:39–41).

Thank God, there is a difference between the weakness of the flesh and the power of the Spirit.

The flesh, as the Scripture often describes it, could be defined as the desires with which we are born into this world—desires to please ourselves, desires to do things our own way, even if it means destroying ourselves. Thank God there is a difference between the weakness of the flesh and the power of the Spirit. When the Scripture speaks of operating in the Spirit, it can be defined as that move, unction, or working of the transformational power of God that changes our desires. When we say we are “walking in the Spirit,” the working of God’s Holy Spirit changes our desires from selfish to selfless. He opens our hearts to the working, the loving, and the moving of the Holy Spirit, thus enabling us to experience the refreshing waters of his Spirit.

Satan knows what your flesh cries out for. Jesus' instructions about how we are to pray and commune with God are not instructions meant to produce simple prayers with no power. The type of prayer Jesus instructs us to pray is not a prayer that is recited only at bedtime. It is a prayer that becomes a catalyst to a life of prayer, and he understands that we need spiritual eyes to see and recognize the bait that Satan is offering. We need spiritual eyes to see the vicious barb of sin that will destroy us once it has taken hold in our life.

Colossians 3:16 Moment: *"Let the Word of Christ dwell deeply in you"*

Pastor/Teacher:

"As I meditate on the truth of Christ praying for me as He did for Peter, my heart is filled with . . .



L-7 Entering often into Spirit-led praise and worship

B. Trusting Our Advocate

As Jesus was speaking to his disciples about this spiritual battle, he spoke to Peter, calling him by his original name: *"Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift all of you as wheat"* (Luke 22:31). The picture we see Jesus painting for Peter is that Satan was out to destroy him.

Jesus continues, *"But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers"* (Luke 22:32).

You can be sure there is an enemy of your soul who's out to destroy you, who wants to see you fall, but you can also be sure that Jesus Christ, who sits at the right hand of God the Father, is making intercession for you, praying that you will not fail (see Romans 8:34).

Walk in the light of God's Son . . . Through Fresh Encounters with Jesus (John 12:35; John 8:12)

"He ever lives to make intercession for you" (Hebrews 11:25).

Quietly allow His Spirit to fill your heart with praise for a praying Christ. Worship this One who always intercedes for you!

III. Holy Spirit, Our Transforming Power

"I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me" (Galatians 2:20 NASB).

A. Christ Living Through Me!

Victory over sin can be experienced when the Holy Spirit transforms our desires. The truth is that we cannot be victorious over sin with willpower alone or with a simple desire to do right. No matter how strong we think we are, we cannot be victorious in our own strength. What we need is the power of the Holy Spirit that changes our desires so that what we used to want, we no longer want. When God renews our minds, when God transforms us by the power of the Holy Spirit, all that once enticed us to take the bait of sin will no longer look appetizing. Freedom is found when we allow God to transform our desires.

You and I are only going to experience Victorious living by having a lifestyle of prayer and letting God transform the desires of our hearts. We need the power of the Holy Spirit to give us the wisdom to not be led into tempting situations. This comes through continual conversation with God,

What we need is the power of the Holy Spirit that changes our desires so that what we used to want, we no longer want.

and as we live submissive to His Spirit, we express our witness of truly loving the Lord. This spiritual transformation is not simply a decision that you make in a moment one day; it is a transformation that comes from the portals of heaven to change your desires and transform your love for self into a love for God and the will of God. We can be transformed through the Holy Spirit to have our desires changed and become hungrier for God than for the enticements of this world.

B. Abraham Being God's Friend



L-4 Rejoicing regularly in my identity as his beloved

Walk in the Light of God's People . . . Through Faithful Engagement in Fellowship (John 12:35; Matthew 5:14)

"I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you" (Ephesians 1:18).

Claim together with a partner or in a small group the promise of Ephesians 1:18, so that we might see and hear as Jesus does. Just as the Scripture notes that Abraham was called a friend of God, rejoice together that you are also the friend of God, and he longs to reveal himself to you and involve you in his kingdom purposes (James 2:23). God wants to free you from sin, confide in you, and then co-labor with you for his eternal glory. Ask him to bless the fruitfulness of the work he has called you to do in this life of prevailing prayer.

"Father, I want to complete the work you have for me. As I reflect on the privilege and the wonder of intimacy with you and co-laboring with you for eternal good, my heart is moved with _____.

Continue to reveal yourself to me in prayer, as I impart your life and love to those I serve."