

Hurry, God!!

Getting In God's Way
or
Getting In God's Will

Workshop

“Why Does God Let Bad Things Happen To Good People?”

A removable chart is provided
for teaching and clarity.

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Introduction

Priority In Prayer might be a little closer to the purpose and path of this workshop guide. We are quick (better: impatient) to put the health needs of ourselves and others at the top of our prayer priorities. This almost always overpowers the spiritual/salvation prayer needs that are so often buried in our closing prayer requests. We tend to concentrate on the easily seen physical health needs and foolishly neglect the spiritual health of ourselves and those we pray for.

The Gospel of Matthew gives us a clear START HERE point for all that we think and do: *“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.”* Matt. 6:33,34.

This workshop guide features the critical need of Christians not “Getting in God's Way” timewise, but “Getting into God's Will”, by applying Godly Faith and Trust. The priority of our lists of prayer for ourselves and others, quite often gets inverted so that it doesn't align with God's priorities.

This resource ends with the addendum showing us the condemnation that results from forsaking our first love.

Scripture often guides us in God's plan for us, in groups of 4; quartets. This workshop guide is a quartet of quartets (which we'll call 'quartlets') The quartlets are numbered [1] - [16] for sequence.

A removable chart is provided for teaching and clarity. [~]

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The first two segments (chapters 'God is Sovereign' and 'God is All Powerful') of our quartet, can be thought of, as GOD'S JOB. This is a crucial foundation for placing the Christian and his service OUT OF GOD'S WAY and INTO GOD'S WILL. This process is sorely needed in most Christians today. Interestingly, the quartlets of God's Job, begin with [1]'Authority' and close with [8]'Tears' and 'Agape Love'.

Chap 1 – GOD IS SOVEREIGN

Quartlet [1] **God the Father - Authority / Justice.** In the government of man, of every nation, at all levels, responsibility and accountability are badly muddled. This is to the great advantage of evil people.

But our first lessons about God, show us His order in the physical world around us. This is further enhanced as we learn from opening scripture, His order in the 6 day creation of it all.

Our one true God is presented to us in scripture as being triune; God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, yet one in purpose and power. This triune unity is made clear enough for our finite minds in Jesus' (God the Son) prayer requests to God the Father, recorded in John 17.

Jesus Christ prays to and obeys God the Father. The Father has given the responsibility for creation and 'managing' mankind in it. The Father has given God the Holy Spirit (in Jesus' name) to be our comforter, teacher, and Heavenward communicator and defined in John 14:26 and Romans 8:26, 27.

Who is the most important person you can think of? Now list at least three people they answer to .

_____ answers to:

Justice. Satisfying God the Father requires 'faithful cheerful obedience' and 'shed blood sacrifices' (never the blood of man).

Into the hands of Moses, and all of mankind to follow, God the Father gave The Law, we also call, The Ten Commandments. God knew this law; these commandments, could never completely followed by mankind. The law was and is meant to be the declaration of God's rules for man; to be our schoolmaster. Disobedience to these rules are individually called SINS and in the Old Testament, called for different acts of (animal) sacrifice by the sinner, for God's forgiveness.

It is important that spiritual faith in obedience of the physical shed blood sacrifice provides forgiveness. This is the combination of faith and the Law of the Old Testament worship of the one true triune God our Bible declares.

Quartetlet [2] **God the Son – Sacrifice/ Creator/ Teacher.**

In obedience to God the Father, Christ (God the Son) left Heaven and became the fulfillment of the Old Testament Law as our Sinless Sacrifice. John 1:3 clearly tells us that Christ is the Creator of all that exists. While He walked the Earth, He taught by example, and with short stories – called parables. It is crucial that we present Christ Jesus, in clear simple ways for everyone to understand and by faith in trust in Him.

Christ' Resurrection puts Him in the position of ultimate God above all man-made gods. (More details later). [~]

Quartlet [3] **God the Holy Spirit – Teacher/ Communicator/ Comforter.** God the Father, in the name of His Son, sent the God the Holy Spirit to the Church to be our 'internal' teacher, that teaches us how to apply scripture to our lives, and with it, gives us ongoing peace. The Holy Spirit is the third PERSON of the Trinity of God. HE is not a thing or an it. HE takes our prayers to Heaven's throne with words we cannot utter. [~]

Quartlet [4] **Holy Scriptures** (our Bible), guided by the inspiration of God, was penned by approximately 40 men, from fishermen to kings. Scripture was written in forms like

poetry, history, legal, prayers etc. There is a powerful warning in its closing verses against adding to or removing any words to its content. To be correctly applied, we must often invite the Holy Spirit to guide our minds and hearts, to its use. 2nd Timothy 3:15,-17 gives us the best foundation for the power of scripture: *And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine[rules], for reproof[testing], for correction[discipline], for instruction[training] in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect[complete(not sinless)], thoroughly furnished unto all good works.* [emphasis added] Notice the two words ALL.

[~]

Chap 2 – GOD IS ALL POWERFUL

Quartlet [5] **All Powerful.** God the Son has all power, but exercises it in obedience to God the Father. This shows the partnership of authority and power within the Trinity, and is the highest level of submission... [~]

Quartlet [6] **All Knowing.** People often ask, “Since God already knows, why should I pray?” Well, if our prayers were just “Aunt Maud is having surgery tomorrow – bless her, God. Make her well.”

However, our prayers, for ourselves and others, should each be a trinity, in form. Each of our prayers should begin with praise to God for all His good gifts to us and His great power and majesty. Second, we voice our petition(s) as detailed as possible. Lastly, should be our submitting, “Nevertheless Lord, let your will be done.” Our Lord closed His prayer with, “*Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.*” (Lu 22:42 & Mt 14:36).

And yet still, we ask why we should pray, since the Holy Spirit takes our requests to the throne in words we cannot utter.

“Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.”
(Ro 8:26).

The purpose of our (trune) praying, is that of hearing (admitting to) ourselves, put our request between two powerful declarations: (1) God is all-powerful; and (2) I want what God wants, even more than what I want – myself. Each time I pray, I'm reinforcing the concept that my bragging bones must always magnify Him. Hearing my own voice state that He is more wise, in knowing what's best for me (and others), than I am, reminds me of His love, protection, and provision. [~]

Quartlet [7] **God is Everywhere.** One of the three main attributes of God is 'Omni-Present'. It means He is everywhere-present. We humans are a part of creation and subject to place and time – God is not. False gods have all sorts of limitations. But the greatest attribute of our one true God in Heaven, is that 'death could not hold him.' The true God we worship was resurrected by His own power, and the only one that could. He boasts, *“I am the Resurrection and the Life...”* (Jn 11:25)

Even more than His power to resurrect Himself, He also has promised He'll resurrect those that have trusted in His Blood of Calvary, giving us an eternal body to remain in His presence. `

Quartlet [8] **God is Agape Love.** Love is the act and attitude of dedication to something or someone. There are three levels of love mentioned in scripture: Eros, Phileo, and Agape. They can be described largely by the level of sacrifice toward the loved one.

Eros is the lustful attention that takes instead of giving (sacrificially). It is a shameful degrading relationship. Phileo, is a friendship kind of love that includes a minimal amount of sacrifice. It might be giving a gift of flowers or candy. It is a fragile, often fickle commitment. Agape, pronounced “uh-Gah'-pay”, is 'in-spite-of' kind of love that depends on the character of the one that loves, irrespective of the character of the one being loved. The level of

sacrifice is best shown by Christ on the Cross. Christ tells us, *“This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.”* (Jn 15:13, 14)

What a contrast in God's relationship to man. Our first quartlet began with God's Authority and Justice, and closes with this quartlet [8] that speaks about His highest level of love and sacrifice for you and I. [~]

MY JOB

In this resource, up till now, we've been forming a foundation for our attitudes and actions, by looking at God's attitudes and actions. This foundation is the perfect starting point, the perfect footing for building and correcting our attitudes and actions – no matter how critical or casual they might be.

In the following 8 quadlets, we'll build attitudes that are in God's will and way, and therefore pleasing to Him. These following segments will **gauge** the level of our attitudes and provide a **guide** for our actions. All that we are, must reflect our identity as Christians; Christ-like. All that we do in this frail mind and body is a training ground for the sweetest eternal fellowship with our Savior in Glory. [~]

Chap 3 – DESIRE HIS WILL

Priority in our prayer for others. Each day of our lives, we put lists to use – lists that are most often printed or displayed. Whether they're an agenda, a shopping list, a list of ingredients on a bottle, or the check list pilots review at takeoff that keeps us flying safely. These lists most often, are a great gauge as to our priorities; our values of the list items with the most important at the top. Our lists become a gauge as to our value of things in the list. This might be our use of the “Law of First Mention.”

Quartet [9] Salvation. I know of several churches that begin their prayer lists with the sick and pain-ridden folks of the church and acquaintances. This sector of prayers often takes up more than half of the printed space, or spoken requests. This may be even the case with your own personal prayer time. At the bottom of the list is where you'll usually see “the unsaved”, and “the missionaries”, without any names specifically stated. The position of “the unsaved” gives the idea that it was an afterthought; like it was “Oh! I almost forgot.”

Would a prayer list like that, be satisfactory to you, if you were one of the unsaved of the church? In the box below, write your comments as though you missed becoming saved because your soul was continually an afterthought of the church.

You and I need to continually nail-down our value of the salvation of JUST ONE soul. We want to remember that that one saved soul, might be an evangelist, missionary, or a tearful soulwinner in a church reaching out to others in your family or extended family.

Many Christians believe that if there was only one living breathing person on this Earth, Christ would still have endured the pain and shame of being the sinless sacrifice on Calvary for that person. This shows us Heaven's value of just one soul saved. Maybe it's not stretching things to imagine that people are putting the sacrifice of Calvary at the bottom of their prayer lists; near the bottom of their values. Do you think this is what makes unhappy Christians? Why?

[~]

Quartlet [10] **Supply.** Rightly so, right after the salvation of others, our list of priorities should include the daily needs and provisions for others – especially by name and need.

This list would include missionaries, military, those in our family, church, and nation.

A CAUTION is waved here. It has to do with the age-old question asked, that rarely gets a God-honoring answer. “Why does a loving God let 'bad' things happen to 'good' people?” The reply often hints like God loves to see people squirm because they haven't acted like heartless mindless robots in instantly doing what He wants. The pain and suffering of His only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ on Calvary is the ultimate example that pain and suffering are used by God in ways that are often above the full understanding of any of we humans.

So, what is the God-honoring reply to those who haven't even touched the depths of understanding of God's Agape Love? Some reasons you might add to:

1. To be a sacrificial benefit to others (like at Calvary)
2. To mature their spiritual character, like in military basic training exercises.
3. To open a “I know how you hurt – you are not alone” door.
4. To constantly remind us our Earthly stay is temporary – make good use of remaining days.
5. To chastise (punish with a purpose) or guide a person back into God's will and way for them – at this time.

Add to the above list:

You might say, “Mr. Potter, don't pound that clay so hard and loud. Are you angry at the clay?” “No my friend! I'm softening the clay into a smoothness, without cracks, that will someday become a beautiful strong pot to carry water to those who thirst.” You might

then say, “Mr. Potter. you know better than I. Please, let your **will** be done with the clay, and I'll not get in your **way**.”

“Don't talk about the C-word!” spoken to a group of people, in church or elsewhere, will show that most people know what you're referring to. **C.A.N.C.E.R.** The word draws thoughts to people's minds that are akin to, “It's a problem; a sickness, that God has no power over.” Or, “Surely a loving God wouldn't allow something that awful to enter into one of His church leaders or a highly dedicated missionary.

When you and I hear of a loved one just diagnosed with cancer, we first, last, and almost completely think of a way to get the cancer patient healed, without even a tiny thought as to God's actions and plans in this event.

Right now would be a good time to review the starter list in the previous quartlet that suggests some reasons why God HAS ALLOWED that sickness into that person, at this time.

As you pray for the health, comfort, and needs of others, ask Heaven to provide someone along side, that will be a spiritual partner to those in pain and need.

Maybe this can all be summed up in “We need to be careful that our prayers for ourselves and others won't be 'getting in God's **way**' , but rather in drawing all of us into His Loving **will**. [~]

Quartlet [11] **Service.** The glory of a suffering servant. In this segment of Hurry, God!, we're dealing with our prayers for others, in the area of service. We need to take a quick look at our #1 task (command) that Christ gave each of us Christians. The familiar verses are at the close of Matthew's gospel. And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. “*Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen. (Matthew 28:18-20)*

We'll see what's missing, in a minute. But first,

- Christ tells us He has all power (authority) without

limitations.

- He tells us He has already given us commands
- He promises He'll be with us always, and even describes what He means by 'always'.
- Our three-fold task is to: GO, TEACH, BAPTIZE.

Now. Have you discovered yet, what is missing? Pick out the exceptions that prevent you from this Great Commission.

List them here...

It's a trick question. Because the Great Commission has no exceptions. It doesn't say that if you have cancer, Barrett's Syndrome, Lupus, Fibromyalgia, Arthritis, or any other disease, you are exempt. Quite the contrary. In our prayers for and with Christians with serious conditions, we need to lovingly suggest to them, they are special. They are special in God's eyes because He has chosen them to bear this condition(s) that will unlock the door of another person, or more that suffers, and be able to show them God's love and provision even in a body of pain.

As stated before, we need for our prayer requests not to get in the **way** of God's plan, but to nudge us all closer to His **will**.

[~]

Quartlet [12] **Maturity**. Each day we take a breath, our purpose of this Earth, is to grow in spirit and in character, and in body. In a word, maturity. Around us we have lots of case histories; living breathing, examples – good and bad, of people who are at somewhere on the maturity scale.

With all revelations God gave to the Apostle Paul, you'd think he'd have scored an A+ on the maturity scale. That doesn't appear to be the case. Let's look at the event and the lesson God gave Paul, that we can all see, detailed in 1st Corinthians 12:7+. Most every generation has debated what the 'thorn' in Paul's side was. Scripture doesn't tell us. Rather, our focus is pointed at its purpose. And the change it made in Paul's attitudes and actions. Paul's 'thorn' was God's tool to maintain humility in His servant,

personifying the Great Commission; GO, TEACH, BAPTIZE. Paul's repeated prayers for removal of the thorn, was met with God lovingly explaining that Heavenly Grace, in the midst of suffering, of any kind, is to be honored and lovingly accepted.

Can you and I proclaim to God, the same that Paul did, in verses 9b-10, of 1st Corinthians 12. *Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.* A key phrase in the above verses must be emphasized here: **“for Christ's sake.”**

All that you and I think, say, or do, must be viewed in the shadow of Calvary's Cross; without exception. [~]

Chap 4 – LOVE FOR OTHERS

The Ingredients of Love

Love has entirely lost its rich meaning and therefore seems to play no real part in our lives and our prayers. We give little more value to the word LOVE, than we do to the word THE.

In this final chapter of HURRY, GOD!, we must give true learning to the ingredients of Love, and thereby know how we direct it toward others, and receive the richest love from our Savior, Jesus Christ. [~]

Quartlet [13] **TEARS.** Tears/weeping is mentioned many times in scripture. Here we can only consider three. I call them the Trinity of Tears.

=1= In Nehemiah 8, the last sentence of verse 9 says, *For all the people wept, when they heard the words of the Law* (scripture). Interestingly, the previous verse finishes with more detail of what the people heard: *and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading.* Our Tears Trio begins with people weeping then God's word is shared with them, with care and feeling. Do you get excited about reading God's Word?

=2= Tears bring a guarantee, in Psalm 126:5,6. The verses tell us that winning the lost and drawing them ever closer to God's will requires our tears. Tears of compassion and burden for those around us experiencing God's richest blessings for them.

=3= The Creator of everything that exists, shedding tears for the weak spiritual character of those around the tomb of Lazarus. Their faith in Him and His timing was very poor. The song about the event repeats many times, the Lord was 'four days late – but still on time' (©Aaron Wilburn). The simple lesson in His tears, is that you and I must realize that time was created **by Him for us**. Our schedules and agendas must reflect His will and way... not the other way around.

What are your thoughts about the coming day in Heaven detailed in Revelation 21:4: *And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.* [~]

Quartlet [14] **SACRIFICE**. Sacrifice sets or declares the value, the depth of love for a thing or person. There are about 3 levels of love referenced in scripture. **EROS** is the erotic level of love that doesn't sacrifice to give, but sacrifices the integrity and feelings of who is being 'loved'. It results in ever deepening sinful habits and attitudes. **PHILEO** is a brotherhood, a friendship kind of love that likely will not survive stormy times, and involves very little sacrifice of the giver of the love. **AGAPE** (pronounced uh-GAH-pay) love is that 'love in spite of' kind of love that is most well seen in God's Gift of His sacrificed Son on Calvary. John 15:12,13 tells us: *This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.* His life is the ultimate sacrifice for the shed blood sacrifice for your sins and mine. [~]

Quartlet [15] **MERCY**. Bulldozers like the ones we see clearing rubble and smoothing out land to make highways always have letters painted on the sides of them. The letters give us an indication of how large and powerful they are, like “D9” or “B11” etc.

I'll never grow so old that I don't enjoy watching a man at the controls of a monster sized road builder dozer and create solid road foundations. The shiny blade in front, and the tracks like a powerful army tank on each side, make you think it could crush a house in one pass.

But then I imagine a dozer far larger and powerful than any that man has built yet. In my mind's eye, I see the lettering on the side of this largest of road builders. The lettering spells out the word “MERCY”. Yes. That has to be the name on something that builds the best roads and bridge foundations, on God's Earth.

The trio-command to all mankind in Micah 6:8 tells us to 'do justly' and 'to walk humbly with thy God'. And between these two, is a precious command that builds roads of repentance and regeneration through obstacles and climates like no other. The center-piece command is to 'love mercy'.

God's GRACE is described as receiving God's gifts to us that we DON'T deserve. God's MERCY is not receiving the measure of God's wrath and judgement that we DO deserve. The greater love of God's mercy, is that all the wrath and judgement that we DO deserve was placed on the Son of God, Jesus Christ, at Calvary.

A deeper look at mercy tells us that real mercy so often is connected with great ongoing sacrifice. Having a bone-deep understanding of how mercy toward me, changed my life for eternity, burdens me to be the very best at all I do. This burden is apexed by my showing God's mercy to others, and His forgiving love for them.

You and I are going to better enjoy our eternal Heavenly fellowship with God, because we've been taught a precious facet of His Agape (in spite of) Love – the facet of loving mercy; building healing roads to the hearts of others, with loving mercy.

God has already placed someone in your harvest field that

needs your loving mercy. List someone, and how you might begin building that road to healing a hurting heart. [~]

Quartlet [16] **Praise in Patience.** “Wait!”, “Hold on Now!”, “Patience!”, “Take Your Time!”, “Cool It!”. These phrases I really despise, sometimes. We all do. The radio, television, and now the Internet have conditioned us all to seek solutions to our problems in 30 minutes, 60 minutes, 24 hours, or even mere seconds.

Another phrase people hate, the Apostle Paul wrote to the church in Rome: “tribulation worketh patience” (Ro. 5:3). One more time phrase we don't care for, is, “little by little” that really disturbs our instant everything life.

“Selah” is a time word used many times in the Old Testament scriptures. Some say it's a musical time word, that suggests 'pause right here'. Other Bible scholars tell us that it also means to 'pause and taste'. To slow down and taste again that portion of yummy food you've just put in your mouth. In our rush to read scriptures, we are snacking instead of FEEDING on God's word.

This might be a good place to SELAH on that 'little by little' phrase. In scripture the phrase is 'little AND little'.

Mentally, if not physically, we tap the table, showing our impatience with God, and that He needs to hurry up, 'cuz we got lots to get done. But He reminds us the time dimension was made BY Him and FOR us. Further, we're reminded, in 2nd Peter 3:8: *But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.*

God explains clearly why His pace in our lives and all those He died for, is slow, deliberate, little by little. The equivalent phrase 'little and little' is mentioned twice in scripture with as much punch as the ol' one-two of a champion prize-fighter.

By little and little I will drive them out from before thee, until thou

be increased, and inherit the land. Exodus 23:30.

Because God purposely did not destroy all the enemy nations all at once, fields would still be planted and tilled. The cattle would also be maintained also. Can you see the result is that God is blessing us mightily by having others begin the work we are to continue?

The second verse:

And the LORD thy God will put out those nations before thee by little and little: thou mayest not consume them at once, lest the beasts of the field increase upon thee. Deuteronomy 7:22

The verse refers to the wild beasts that would flourish uncontrollably upon the countless corpses that Israel could not have buried fast enough.

If you see that your ministry is just inching along, know that God is busy preparing hearts and resources down the road. Don't think me glib but I believe He wants us to enjoy the scenery of His world He has made us the center of, along the way. He wants us to savor and share every morsel of His blessings with others. Selah.

The bottom line, we state here, is that :

1. We should not get in God's WAY by having our prayers TELL God what He should be doing, how, and when.
2. Our prayer (lists), with Salvation being the top priority, should encourage our own hearts and those of others to seek His Will, to align ours to His, while praising, trusting, and happily obeying His WILL, each moment.

Do you desire **Full Joy** and **More Than Conqueror** results in your life? Fully commit to the 2 step list just stated. Scripture guarantees it. [~]

(continue onto next page)

Addendum

There is another important special mention of love in God's condemnation of the church at Ephesus, stated in Revelation 2. Verse 4 ends with, "...because thou hast left thy first love." The notes of Dr. Charles Ryrie state:

[[“Left” implies an intentional, not accidental, act. More than 30 years before, this church had been commended for its love (Eph. 1:15-16). ...but they had abandoned that eagerness to please and devotion that characterizes first love.]]

Can you see signs of your worship family and its leadership losing their first love, for Christ, scripture, and the salvation of others? List a few here, that would then become the opening of your own daily prayer list.

[~] [~] [~]

