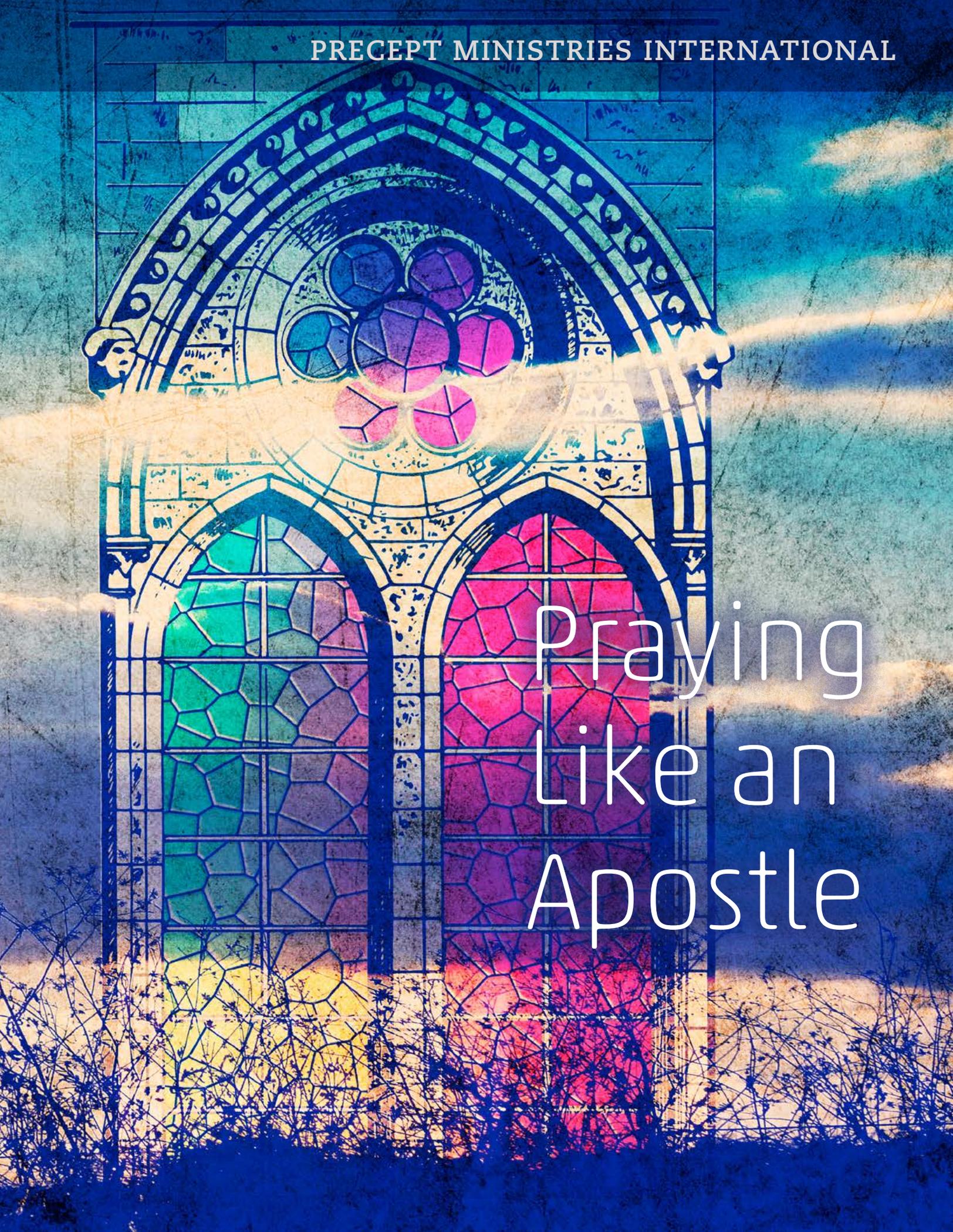


PRECEPT MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL



Praying
Like an
Apostle



Praying Like an Apostle

How is your prayer life going? Would you describe it as vibrant or vacant? Does it feel like you are conversing with the King of the Universe or are your prayers stopping at the ceiling in your room?

We all can get stuck in a prayer rut. It's not uncommon for anyone's prayer life to find places that seem dull or ineffective. The real question is what do you do when you find your prayers dragging along in a rut?

One idea is to freshen up your prayer practice by using prayers found in the scriptures. In addition to our Lord's prayer in Matthew 6 there are several options to choose from:

- To inspire praise in your prayers spend time in the Psalms.
- To develop trust in praying spend time in the prophets like Daniel, Jeremiah and Isaiah.
- To deepen your content pray like an apostle.

Praying like an apostle can start easily by locating prayers in the New Testament Epistles and letting them become your own prayers. It's really simple – you just pray these prayers and exchange your identity for the apostle's. For example, replace the name of the church like Colossae with your own church or circle of friends.

To strengthen and remodel your prayer life – take a prayer from one of the epistles – break it down into segments and structure your prayers around it. To help you get started in this process, let's do one together.

10 Rules for Mixing Politics and Religion

Colossians 1:9-12 (ESV)

- 9 And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,
- 10 so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.
- 11 May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy,
- 12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.
-

The first thing we learn from this prayer is **persistence**. “We have not ceased to pray for you.” Prayer is not typically a one-time event. Although there are exceptions – the standard seems to be a format that is continual. Jesus even reminded us that the persistent woman’s prayer will be answered with justice. It is not as if we can bug God into doing what we desire but rather it forms a posture of dependency before His throne. When we pray continually we are exercising trust and thus honoring God for who He truly is.

Our next phrase in the prayer is the actual “**ask**.” Paul is asking God to do something. To ask is the very nature of prayer. We are approaching an all-knowing, all-powerful God to intervene in a situation. What does Paul ask for?

Paul’s basic request is for the church to be **filled with the knowledge of God’s will**. I love that! Paul doesn’t start with the actions to be accomplished by the church. Instead Paul understands that true change starts with the filling of God’s will in God’s people. What a great thing to pray for!

He doesn’t stop short in his asking either! Fill them with **ALL** spiritual wisdom and understanding! This simple aspect of praying has truly impacted my prayer life. In asking God to change someone or deliver them from bad practices I was missing the real solution. The real solution is a change from within, which comes

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from a filling from God. When we are **FULL** of God's spiritual wisdom and understanding we can expect changes to occur in our lives!

The next phrase is the fruit of the filling – **“Walk in a manner worthy of the Lord.”** A worthy walk is worth praying for, but what is a walk worthy of the Lord? See how Paul describes it. He asks that they walk in such a way as to be “fully pleasing to God.”

What pleases God? The next phrase tells us the answer: “Bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.” I just love the “ing” words used in this prayer – “bearing fruit”, “increasing in knowledge.” Paul is asking God for **growth** in the church. No superstition here – no waving of a magic wand – but rather a daily, ongoing process of sanctification. This makes for good prayers!

How will God deliver the answer to the prayers above? Our next phrase gives us a clue: **“Strengthened with all power according to His glorious might.”** Wow! Now that is some kind of strength! Paul is asking God to give them what they need – and his source is unmatched! “His glorious might!”

I can see a principle here for prayer would be to ask God to strengthen the ones we are praying for versus asking God to simply fix the issue. God loves to give His people what they need in the moment of crisis. This timely delivery of strength ultimately makes us dependent on God. This manner gives God the Glory and reminds us we are like breakable jars of clay.

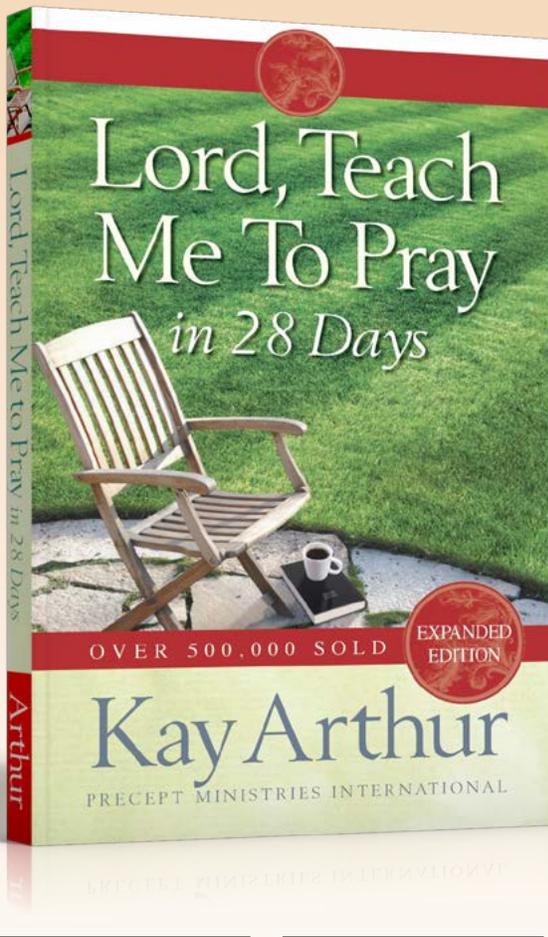
Finally the prayer ends with **thanksgiving**. What a good way to end. Thanking God demonstrates His goodness, His presence, in our daily lives.

Pray like an apostle? It's not impossible; simply grab a prayer, break it down into pieces and put yourself and those who you are praying for in it. Then pray!

This can help you in the times when you get stuck in a rut. The “exit” can often be found in praying scriptures – praying like an apostle!

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