

**JUMPSTART TO
POWER
PRAYERS**

JUMPSTART TO POWER PRAYERS

**MARJORIE
GORDON**

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To my beloved husband, Darrel,
who has encouraged me to develop a variety of gifts
for fifty-one years



Endorsements

JUMPSTART TO POWER PRAYERS

Motivating! Encouraging! Practical! These words describe in part the impact of Marjorie Gordon's new book *Jumpstart to Power Prayers*. What Christian doesn't want a more effective prayer life? The clear step-by-step prayer process that the author outlines will help to produce prayers that pack power. Both historical and personal illustrations are utilized to underscore the validity of each step. As a result of reading this book, I not only want to pray more, but have tools to increase my prayer power.

Warren D. Bullock, D.Min.

Executive Presbyter, General Council of the Assemblies of God
Former Dean, School of Ministry,
Northwest University, Kirkland, WA
Adjunct Faculty, Assemblies of God Theological Seminary,
and Northwest University
Senior Pastor, Northwest Family Church, Auburn, WA.



Marjorie Gordon has written a practical book using personal examples of the power of effective answered prayer. Through pragmatic use of a notebook during prayer, she displays how prayer can become a vital and essential factor in a strong and overcoming life. The reader will benefit with a deeper faith by putting into use her ideas and actions, which she has tested and proven over a lifetime.

I thought this to be a valuable book. Gordon's emphasis on the use of Scripture in prayer has been something I will strive to use more for greater effectiveness in prayer. *Jumpstart to Power Prayers* has the potential to increase the power of prayer in all of its readers.

John Simpson,
Chaplain (Colonel) U.S. Army, Retired

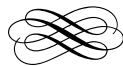


Jumpstart to Power Prayers is for all those seeking to deepen their prayer lives; a spiritual “pot of gold” at the end of the rainbow.

Author Marjorie Gordon skillfully blends Scripture and personal experiences with quotes and illustrations from the lives of others, then presents a step-by-step guide to the unique method that forever changed the way she prays.

I heartily recommend *Jumpstart to Power Prayers* to anyone who wants a closer relationship with God.

Colleen L. Reece,
Award-winning author/teacher/speaker.
140 “Books You Can Trust”—5 million copies sold.



Gordon pens a colorful and insightful book on prayer. Along with interesting personal testimonies of God's grace and miraculous answers to prayer, Marge outlines a "How-To" manual teaching us how to have "power prayers" in our personal lives. I recommend this book to anyone interested in learning to pray effective and powerful prayers.

Pastor Don Howard
Pastor of Community
Northwest Family Church
Auburn, WA.



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- To my mentor and friend Colleen Reece. Without her steady critiques, insight, knowledge, and inspiration, this book would not have been written.
- To my “Seven Sisters” writing group for their thoughtful comments and encouragement.
- To Pastor Warren Bullock, Pastor Don Howard, and Chaplain John Simpson for their careful review of the manuscript and wise input.
- To the many family members, friends, and students from classes and workshops who have shared their experiences.
- To the legacy of those who have gone before us—especially those who took the time to pen a record of God’s hand in their lives.



Introduction

LETTER TO READERS

For years I read stacks of fine books about prayer but I still didn't eagerly and expectantly look forward to praying. My prayers lacked vitality. After I discovered they must be inseparably linked with God's Word, my prayers changed permanently.

My adventure with powerful prayers led me to start keeping a notebook. No, not a book *about* prayer. From my daily Bible reading I collected Scripture prayers, promises, and patterns related to my personal concerns. I found it helpful to divide the growing collection into specific groups. I included dates and names of those for whom I prayed.

Now I pray with tremendous expectation, boldness, and confidence because I'm sure of praying according to God's will and purpose. My prayers are closely connected to God's Word and He promises to watch over His Word to perform it.

Through classes and workshops this material has guided many others to experience the same transforming power by creating their own personal prayer manuals. Unlike a diary or journal, which is replaced annually, your manual

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will contain a lifetime of prayers and promises gleaned from God's Word and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit. It will become a personal treasury of faith-building answers.

Because accounts of answered prayer have consistently encouraged me, *Jumpstart to Power Prayers* includes numerous examples of God's miraculous intervention in answer to prayer—both mine and others.

I once heard someone say, "If I stopped praying, it wouldn't radically affect my life." Wouldn't it be tragic to live out our lives only to regret not having trusted God more?

I pray this book will be a tool to help individuals and congregations successfully renew their commitment to prayer—the way it has for me.

In Christian love,
Marjorie Gordon

“Prayer is a gift from Almighty God that transforms us, whether we bow our heads in solitude, or offer swift and silent prayers in times of trial. Prayer humbles us by reminding us of our place in creation. Prayer strengthens us by reminding us that God loves and cares for each and every soul in His creation. And prayer blesses us by reminding us that there is a divine plan that stands above all human plans.”¹

—President George W. Bush

The Power Connection

JAMAICA-BOUND CRISIS

Early morning spring air at the Eugene, Oregon, airport invigorated my husband, Darrel, and me as we unloaded suitcases. Jamaica-bound. Our first perfect, luxury vacation—the expense courtesy of a business award. Our three young children remained at home in the loving care of visiting grandparents.

Once inside the bustling terminal, Darrel left me with the carry-on bags and went to check on seat assignments. Without warning, a wave of nausea and dizziness overwhelmed me. I staggered into a chair and supported my head with a shaking hand. Once before, a horrible case of the flu had attacked me this way.

I held a desperate conversation with God while I waited for Darrel. *God, this thing can't possibly be from You. You have helped us work around so many obstacles to get this far. Help us now. Help me. The Bible, Your Word, holds lots of promises of healing. It says You are my God who heals all my diseases. Lord, I ask You to take these symptoms from me now and remove the cause, in Jesus' precious name.*

I waited, weak and trembling. With no change in my condition, I thought of Jesus' words and continued. *Lord, You said whatever I bind on earth shall be bound in heaven. And You said, "No one can*

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enter a strong man's house and carry off his possessions unless he first ties up the strong man." Help me pray. I don't understand this kind of prayer.

I silently continued with words I hardly believed were mine. *Satan, I confront you in the name of Jesus. I bind you and command you to take away this dark thing you have brought upon me. I bind you in the name of Jesus and tell you to leave me alone.*

Wow! I'd never prayed a prayer like that before.

Darrel returned and noticed my visible distress. He sat and supported me. "Marge, what's wrong? Do you need to go home?"

"I'm—I'll be okay," I mumbled.

Boarding time. *Lord, what now? I still feel awful.*

Determined to trust God, we boarded and settled ourselves in our seats. Darrel remained worried. "Are you sure you're going to be okay?"

I nodded, but I wasn't sure.

The cheerful flight attendant went through routine safety plans. We were airborne. My condition persisted.

Thirty minutes into the flight I began to improve. Sips of cold orange juice tasted refreshing. Shortly, all my symptoms vanished. I silently thanked God, but I had no idea the extent of His intervention.

Motion sickness had previously afflicted me for hours following any flight. After the long flight to Los Angeles, Miami, and finally Jamaica, I felt great.

Following a wonderfully sunny, relaxing week, the flight home proved equally problem-free. It took a few weeks for me to realize I had been completely delivered of all motion sickness. Previously I couldn't read a map while riding in a car or even sit in a child's swing without experiencing nausea.

I later realized I no longer relied on aspirin several times a week to relieve the frequent headaches I'd had for years. Neither the headaches nor the motion sickness ever reappeared. God had answered my trusting prayers "exceeding abundantly" above all I asked or thought.

THE POWER COLLECTION

Prayer. Wonderful, mysterious prayer. I was eager to pray in this newly discovered power. My encounter en route to Jamaica taught me the value of finding the foundation for my prayers in the Bible. I had read many books *about* prayer. Still, my prayers felt so inadequate. I needed something to guide me daily when I prayed.

In the ensuing months, I kept a notebook near my Bible and added passages of Scripture relating to the needs I prayed about. When the number grew, I put dividers into a three-ring binder and categorized them. Inspired by the biography of George Muller¹ and his lifelong journal of prayers, I added dates and names to the prayers and patterns I collected.

MIGHTY MEN OF GOD PRAY THE WORD

I found confirmation for my growing prayer collection in the examples of two men in the Old Testament who used God's Word in their prayers.

When the children of Israel made a golden calf, God was so angry He told Moses He was going to destroy them all and make Moses into a great nation. Moses pleaded for their lives and concluded: *"Remember Your servants Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, to whom You swore by Your own Self: 'I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and I will give your descendants all this land I promised them, and it will be their inheritance forever.'"* Then the Lord relented and did not bring on His people the disaster He had threatened (Genesis 32:13-14).

Moses prayed God's Word.

Nehemiah prayed something similar. He recorded his great distress when he heard reports of the desolation of Jerusalem. After a prayer of confession he continued: *"Remember the instruction You gave Your servant Moses, saying, 'If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations, but if you return to me and obey my commands, then even if your exiled people are at the farthest horizon, I will gather them from there and bring them to the place I have chosen...'"* (Nehemiah 1:8-9).

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Isaiah recorded an invitation from God: “*Review the past for Me, let us argue the matter together*” (Isaiah 43:26).

Jeremiah wrote this powerful message: *The Lord said to me, “You have seen correctly, for I am watching to see that My Word is fulfilled”* (Jeremiah 1:12).

THE FIRST KEY

I knew I had discovered a key confirming my experience. Consistent with these examples, if I want powerful prayers, the kind God delights to answer, they should not only line up with His Word, but may even be His words.

What kind of power is there in God’s Word when others speak it? Hear what God told Jeremiah: “*Now, I have put My Words in your mouth. See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant*” (Jeremiah 1:9-10).

The prayers I prayed in the airport had power beyond what I anticipated because I reminded God of His Word—I prayed His Word.

THE SECOND KEY

The second key to the principle of praying God’s Word is related to the comforting words in Hebrews 13:8. *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.*

When the Bible reveals the nature of God the Father, Son, or Holy Spirit, we know they remain unchanged. They are the same today for us in the midst of our problems—still willing and able to intervene on our behalf in similar ways.

MORE KEYS TO UNLOCK POWER

My collection of prayer patterns grew daily in direct proportion to my Bible reading. I realized no part of the Bible was off limits after considering the following passages:

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- *All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correction and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work (2 Timothy 3:16-17).*
- *For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope (Romans 15:4).*

Each portion of the Bible has something to teach. I look especially for what it teaches about the nature of God, the nature of man, and the relationship between them.

I was sure I was on the right track, but insecurity still undermined my prayers. While I had a great desire to know God's will, I wasn't sure that was possible. How could I pray according to His will? I was overjoyed when I found the words of Colossians 1:9.

For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of His will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding.

God wants us to know His will. Then His will must be revealed in His Word. With that matter settled, I moved on to more confident prayers. God had revealed five keys to powerful prayers:

- All Scripture is inspired by God.
- All Scripture is profitable for instruction.
- Jesus Christ is the same forever.
- We can know His will.
- God watches over His Word to perform it.

In the months that followed my discovery of the relationship of these scripture passages, I developed a growing, life-giving, powerful prayer manual. During this time I had another vivid experience linking the Bible to prayer.

MIDNIGHT CALL

Night wrapped its comforting black velvet cloak around me. I slept peacefully except for the vague awareness that Darrel was on a business trip.

The telephone jangled, shattering my peace. *It's after midnight! Who can this be?*

"Mrs. Gordon, I'm calling from Minneapolis. Your husband has been admitted to the intensive care unit." The nurse spoke in a calm voice. "It appears he has had a heart attack. His condition is stable at this time."

I couldn't focus my thoughts. I groped for a pen. I wrote down the hospital's phone number. The nurse in me fled—the wife panicked. Darrel was 1300 miles from home and I couldn't talk with him. Shock drained my strength. I slid to my knees beside the bed.

"Oh, dear God! Dear Heavenly Father..." I sobbed. After a long while my crying prayers subsided. The deep knowledge of God's faithfulness brought a measure of peace. "Lord, I ask you to heal Darrel. I will trust You in whatever lies ahead."

Even in my confusion, I knew God was in control, trustworthy, and had heard my prayer. I half slept, half prayed through the rest of the night.

The next day I continued to storm heaven and proceeded with the demands of the day. I tried to appear calm until our children were off to school. I frantically considered my options: *Call our pastor? Yes. Try to get a plane reservation to Minneapolis? What about the children? Call the doctor? Yes. That's a good place to start.*

"We have done some blood tests and your husband's condition remains stable. He's resting comfortably. No, he can't come to the phone. No, I can't assure you his condition won't change...." The doctor made no promises except to call me later.

That afternoon I waited in the car for our son David to finish football practice. I removed a small blue New Testament from my purse and held it while I pleaded with God. I opened it randomly

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and read, “*So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives...*” (Luke 11:9-10).

I stopped. I read the last sentence again. “*For everyone who asks receives.*” Then a voice inside spoke clearly. *Marge, you’ve asked, haven’t you?*

“Yes, Lord, you know I have,” I cried.

The voice was just as clear as before. *Then what do you think I will do?*

“Oh, Father, You will *heal* Darrel.” I accepted the promise and the peace it brought.

Three days later my pale, weak husband arrived home on a plane. His gray countenance revealed how sick he’d been. Further tests by a local cardiologist revealed nothing but a healthy heart. God had surely answered my prayers.



Looking back, I am grateful for the timing of this experience. Both my faith and my prayers had been growing rapidly. It was my daily practice to read the Bible and collect special promises. That undoubtedly explains how I could deal with this crisis without being overcome by fear and anxiety.

LOOKING AHEAD

In the next chapter we will consider the high privilege and responsibility God gives His beloved in calling us to pray. In each of the remaining chapters you will be guided in creating your own personal prayer manual. It will become a collection of Scripture examples and promises, as well as your personal prayers and God’s answers. You will discover, as I have, that God cannot open the windows of heaven wide for a person who keeps his Bible closed.

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EXAMINE YOURSELF

Stop now and ask yourself these questions. Take time to consider your answers.

1. If I stopped praying how would it affect me? My family? My world?
2. Do my prayers need a transfusion of power?
3. Do I spend more time talking about prayer than I do in praying?
4. Are my prayer intentions noted on random lists and scattered scraps of paper in need of organization?
5. Am I willing to try a new approach to praying with power?



Lord, I am willing and I desire to become an effective intercessor as led by Your Holy Spirit. I ask You to put Your words in my mouth even as You did with Jeremiah, that I might be Your instrument to build and plant, uproot and tear down, destroy and overthrow. Lord, I desire to be a laborer in Your harvest. May Your Kingdom come and Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. I pray in Jesus' precious name. Amen.