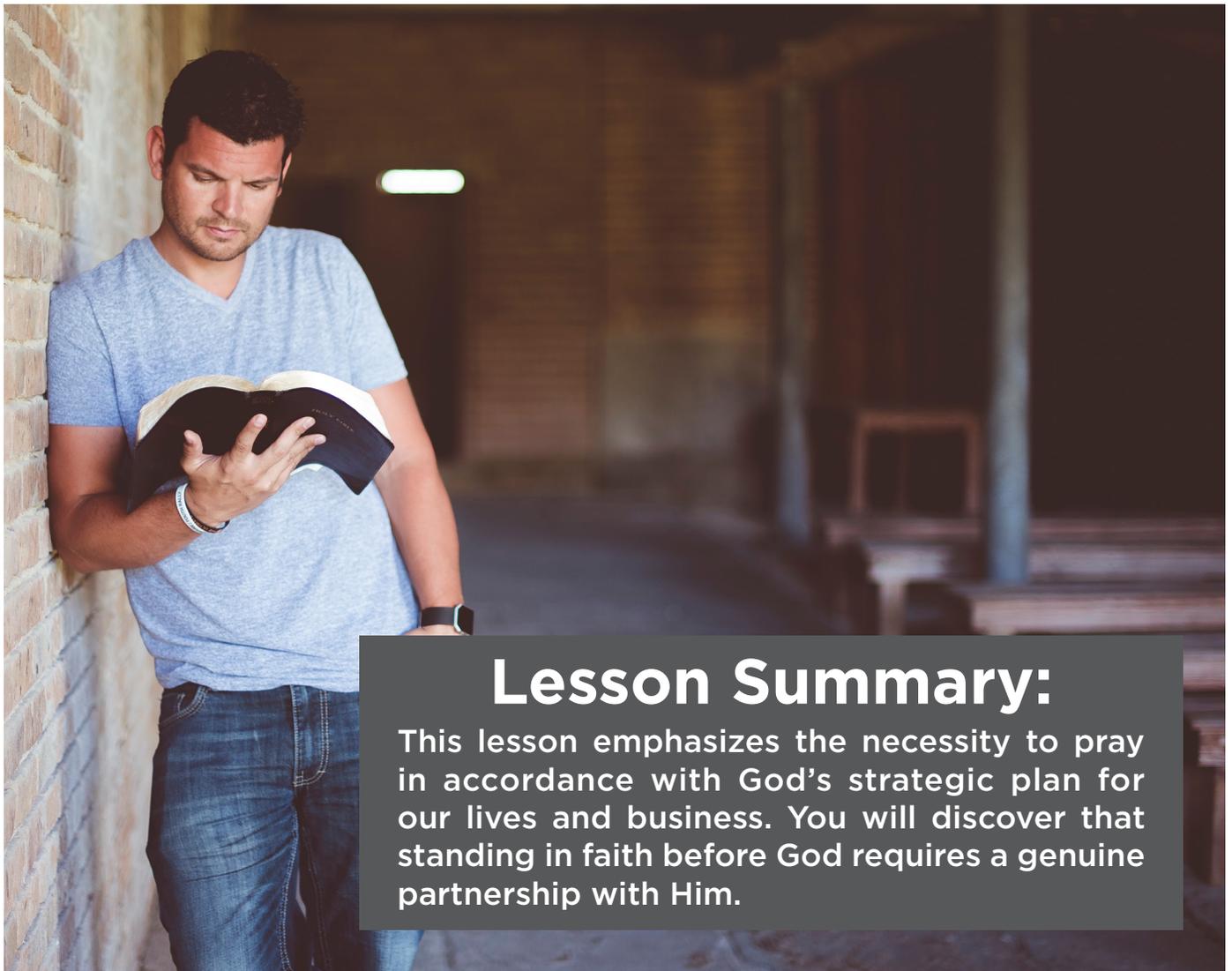


GoBusiness200 | Lesson 9

Business Prayers God Will Answer

BY DENNIS PEACOCKE



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Lesson Summary:

This lesson emphasizes the necessity to pray in accordance with God's strategic plan for our lives and business. You will discover that standing in faith before God requires a genuine partnership with Him.

MAIN LESSON IDEAS:

- *Standing in faith before God requires a genuine partnership with Him.*
- *The power of our prayers rests largely upon the lawfulness of our position and our petitions.*

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Ten Prayers for Obedience for My Business Ministry with God

Prayer for the faith-basis of our business ministry:

1. Father, extend Your Kingdom through my stewardship of resources, leadership skills, and relational responsibilities where I serve You in the marketplace.
2. Father, let me build with You and the Holy Spirit as You teach me to see, hear, and sense Your working with me.
3. Father, let me fear only You and understand that I disappoint only You through my ignorance or disobedience, and let me act in faith and obedience toward all people and situations.
4. Father, keep my six basic ministry priorities in Your order for them, speaking to me about what, when, and how to do Your perfect will in each of them:
 - My service to You
 - My service and care of my family
 - My service and care of my spiritual family
 - My ministry to the Kingdom through the marketplace
 - My concern for the unsaved
 - My service as a godly citizen to my community and nation

Prayer for the oversight and growth of our business ministry:

5. Father, keep my spouse and me in agreement on the major issues of this ministry.
6. Father, keep Your strategy for growth, investment, and giving always before me as a guide and measuring rod.
7. Father, help me to keep those whom You have given to me for wise counsel informed and aligned with me in our ministry according to Your will.
8. Father, keep me building relationally with all those with whom I work in such a way as to glorify You.
9. Father, keep my eyes on the true issue of growth in this ministry, which is obeying You, and let me continue to see profit as a fruit, not a goal.
10. Father, keep me ethically, morally, and relationally clean, and protect me and those with whom I labor from presumptuous sins.

- I. The specific prayer issues required to stand before God in faith:
 - A. We must pray in faith for our business ministry, be at peace with the convicting power of God, and deal with the accusing condemnation of the enemy.
 1. Review the *Ten Prayers for Obedience for My Business Ministry with God*.
 2. Pray through this list regularly, paying close attention to where God wants you to especially focus at each point or general area (seasons).
 - B. Major issues involved in praying effectively:
 1. If we don't ask, God usually doesn't give (James 1:5-8; Matthew 7:7-11).
 2. God answers general prayers generally and specific prayers specifically.
 3. No answer is an answer: "No," "Not yet," or "Wrong request."
 4. God does not answer "formula prayers"; our heart conversation must be in agreement with our outer conversation to be in faith (Psalm 86:11).
 5. Prayer with a spouse is near the top of the list of "power prayers"; praying with your whole family is even better.
 6. The borders of your prayer life are usually the borders of your ministry responsibilities.
 7. God answers our prayer with His resources when we have put our full resources into the request first.
 8. God meets us at the point of obedience to Him and to His delegated authorities in our lives.
 9. Enlisting others to pray with us and for us regularly, greatly magnifies the power of our requests. This is the fulfillment of the "law of two witnesses" (Deuteronomy 17:6; Romans 8:16, 27, 34; 1 John 5:8; Deuteronomy 19:15; Acts 15:28; Deuteronomy 30:19; 2 Corinthians 13:1; Matthew 18:16; Matthew 16:9).
 10. Praying by the power of the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential (Romans 8:26-28).

II. Our prayer life must proceed out of the principles God is teaching us and the borders of ministry He has given us.

- A. My spiritual authority primarily operates in my sphere of ministry and engiftment (2 Corinthians 10:13-17).
 1. Our spiritual authority is on earth, not heaven (Psalm 115:16; Matthew 16:19).
 2. Our spiritual authority operates where God has given us both general authority as a believer (Luke 19:16; Mark 16:15-18) and specific authority over a particular ministry (2 Corinthians 10:13-17).
 3. The more particular my assignment, the more precise my authority is and, therefore, the more specific my prayers can be.
- B. You must pray in accordance with general scriptural principles (*Logos*) and with particular concepts (*Rhema*) by which God has told you to operate (John 21:20-22).
 1. Our petitions regarding growth must stay within the biblical guidelines of borrowing money. Being in debt is when your liabilities exceed the *true average market value* of all your assets if sold. Study what the Scripture says about debt.
 2. The Scripture prohibits God's servants from investing the seed corn either directly or as surety (collateral).

3. Seven-year loans (seasons) are a maximum time period as a biblical pattern.
4. Expansion should proceed out of savings, thereby letting God determine your rate of growth as a consequence of controlled management and character/principle-based expansion rather than greed, presumption, or simply “good opportunities.”
5. Christ’s prayer life gives us wonderful insight into some principles of how to pray prayers for your ministry that God can answer.
 - a. The raising of Jarius’ daughter (Matthew 9:25): *a faith environment*
 - b. The raising of Lazarus (John 11:41-42): *waiting on God’s timing*
 - c. The “Lord’s Prayer” (Matthew 6:9-13): *simple and specific*
 - d. The Lord’s prayer (John 17): *glorifying Father’s name and protecting and strengthening His brethren*
 - e. The centurion for his servant (Matthew 8:5-13): *in the faith of God’s chain of command*
 - f. For those in *authority* (1 Timothy 2:1-2)
 - g. Gideon for *confirmation* (Judges 6:36-40)
 - h. Solomon for wisdom to *lead people* (1 Kings 3:6-14)

