

Prayer  
is a  
Powerful  
Thing

Powerful  
Effective  
Prayer

Rev. Hank  
**BATES**

Prayer is a Powerful Thing - in its 1<sup>st</sup> printing this little booklet has reached out to the world: Brazil, South Africa, Italy, France, Great Britain, Trinidad, Australia, Russia, Germany, Canada, New Zealand, Japan, the United Arab Emirates, and throughout the United States.

Rev. Hank Bates is an ordained Religious Science Minister. Through his knowledge of the Science of Mind and the principles contained in the Holy Bible, especially the teachings of the Master Mind Jesus, this ministry has helped countless numbers of people to realize their hopes, dreams and goals through the global Internet ministry, [www.revbates.tv](http://www.revbates.tv). Rev. Bates studied with the Masters of Religious Science; Dr. O. C. Smith and the modern mystic, Rev. Dr. Juanita Bryant-Dunn. Rev. Bates is the Founding Minister of the Desert Cities Religious Science located in Palm Springs, California, and the Founder of the virtual ministry, RevBates.tv

This book is dedicated to:

My dear Aunt Ruth Bates, and to Mr. Kenneth  
H. Roeder

This is the first of many helpful booklets to come to strengthen our faith, our prayer skills and to discover that Power within us that can move us through whatever it is that we must move through in order to enjoy the journey. The publication of this 2<sup>nd</sup> printing is truly a blessing from the Infinite One.

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"I have been all things unholy. If God can  
work through me, He can work  
through anyone."  
- St. Francis of Assisi



"Beyond the obstruction ...  
is the Un-Obstructed."

GOD BLESS YOU ... GOD BLESS US ALL.

# MESSAGE ONE

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## POWERFUL

"This is a how-to, move-through teaching. We teach people how-to, move-through whatever is going on in their life." – Dr. O. C. Smith, 2001

Our approach to God in prayer is of utmost importance and will determine whether or not our prayers are effective. Many of us come from a traditional religious experience and have been taught to pray to a God faraway in the heavens. But, the Master Mind Jesus taught us to go into the closet (shut out the world) and pray to our Father in quiet confidence knowing that He knows our needs before we ask. Jesus demonstrated his teachings in his work, not his words. As we learn from his example we can build a conviction in our mind, that the Good that we desire is God's desire for us. It can be no other way.

Can we approach God in confidence, trusting that He desires for us the Good that we seek? No? Then we must examine our beliefs about God and create a new understanding of our relationship with Him. In the Book of

Jeremiah we can read, "I have loved you with an everlasting love." Imagine that God is loving us at all times, loving us in sickness and in health, poverty and riches, in our right thinking and in our wrong thinking. Can we believe this?

The Radical Rabbi Jesus taught, "it rains on the good and the bad alike." What more do we need to know? In other words, God's blessings are not bestowed on us because we are Good – Jesus said, "don't call me Good, only the Father is Good." Neither are we to call ourselves Good - for the Good that we do, is God working through us, as us and for us. Do we call ourselves bad or a sinner? If we do then we are denying God for in the Book of Genesis we can read that we are "created in the image and likeness of God" and all that God created was Good and Very Good. This is the Truth that we must realize in our consciousness in order to pray powerfully, without doubt and without questioning whether God is going to answer our prayer or leave us in our misery.

We must begin to accept that God loves us with an everlasting love. We must begin to accept that God does not favor those who think they are Good and

neither does God deny those who think they are not. God is not even aware of our mistakes (sins). To think so is to bring God down to the level of man living in the limitations of the earthbound experience. God is Infinite, infinite Power, infinite Love and infinite Intelligence. As we understand our right relationship to this Infinite Power of Good, we can approach prayer in a more powerful way.

Not understanding our relationship with the Infinite can create a sense of separation from God and therefore a separation from our Good. As children we learned how to add, subtract, multiply and divide numbers. Then, based on our ability to grasp the principles of mathematics, we took classes in algebra and geometry etc. However, unless we gained the knowledge of adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing numbers, it would not be possible for us to comprehend algebra, geometry etc. In other words, we must know the most basic principles of mathematics in order to move forward to make greater use of the basic principles. We must understand God in the same way because if we do not understand our "basic relationship" with God, we cannot receive the greater benefits that the knowledge of God can

give us – we cannot have the lasting “experience” of God in our lives.

As we learn and accept our basic relationship with God, we are then empowered to take dominion and authority over our earthbound conditions. Once again, going back to the Book of Genesis we learn that we are created in the image and likeness of God. Now, we know this does not mean our physical body because if it did we would all look alike. So, we realize that this image and likeness is Spirit and Life and we “image” God by reflecting God, the qualities of God. Mystics have revealed to us the qualities of God: Life, Love, Light, Peace, Harmony, Joy and Strength. This is the image of God that we reflect. But, many of us have spent many years of our life not understanding this. And, then when it is explained to us, we don’t really understand what it means.

The message of Jesus has greater meaning today than ever before. The simplicity with which he stated profound principles has never been equaled. Our relationship with God is simple and easy to understand. Created in the image and likeness simply means that we reflect God, the qualities of God, Life, Truth and



Love. As we understand that "It is the Father that worketh in me," we can get ourselves out of the way, and allow this Truth to be experienced in our life. We may have experiences that seemingly make it impossible for us to reflect the Life, Love and Light of God, but this can never be true. The belief that somehow we can be separate and apart from God is the "cause" of all discord and disharmony in our life. As we understand we are a "reflection" of God, we can then know that like a wave reflects the qualities of the ocean or the ray of sunshine, the sun, we cannot be alive, and be separated from God. This we must know and this we must reinforce in our mind daily. This is the Truth that sets us free that the Master Mind Jesus so simply stated.

Powerful prayer begins with the understanding and the realization that we desire to reflect more of God in our experiences. If we are experiencing sickness, then we affirm that God is health for God Is Life, and therefore we affirm that we are reflecting the Life, the health, that God Is. The same applies to any and all things that are discordant in our life; God can never be poor, limited, restricted, helpless, hopeless or powerless over the conditions of our life. In the

realization that we reflect the Power and Strength of God, we take dominion and authority over our life. Strength means confidence and self-assurance. This is the Divine Order, God reflecting as man, through man and for man. As we remove our disbelief and get greater understanding, we can pray without ceasing for any and all things that concern us, knowing that we are reflecting the Good that God Is, no matter what the situation.

ALWAYS REMEMBER ..... MAN REFLECTS GOD.

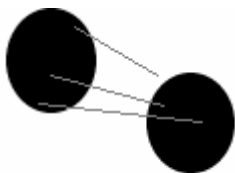
Let us breakdown the word desire; "de" means "of" and "sire" means "Father" ... so our desires are of the Father. Our Good desires have been planted within us to be expressed – God desires us to express them in our lives ... to experience more and more Good. So many of us have been taught that there is something admirable in struggle and poverty. God does not desire for us to live a life of struggle or live in want. "All that the Father hath is mine," Jesus said. And He wasn't being selfish ... He meant all that the Father hath is ours too! But we must stand up and be counted and not be afraid to "ask" for what we want in a powerful way. God did not create us as beggars

nor as whiners. We have been created from the Mind of God ... as a perfect idea. So what is God's idea for us? Contemplate this and you will find that God desires for us to live a life of accomplishment. A life in which our needs are always met ... a life that is healthy and happy.

I received a call from a young woman who was down to no money, no job ... she didn't even have the money to buy cat food for her cat. Her mind was in turmoil. Now this is a woman who has faithfully attended church on a regular basis. She knows how to pray ... and she had been praying. But, she told me she was feeling so much fear it was difficult for her to pray. Now, I knew that she had been having this experience for a few years ... not just this one time but this had become a repetitive experience in her life ... a habit you could say ... but definitely a pattern of thought that must be stopped.

I asked her to think about the fear. Was she really feeling fear? After all, she had been in this situation several times over the past couple of years ... and every time, she made it to the other side of the problem. After thinking for a few moments, she told me that it probably

wasn't fear but "she just didn't like being in this position again." Behind this statement is shame and guilt ... not fear. But there is no shame and no reason to feel guilty when we approach God. God wants us to turn to Him. " In the Book of Isaiah we can read, "I AM the LORD , and there is none other; thou shalt have no savior but me. I will strengthen you, though you have not acknowledged me." God wants us to turn to Him ... and know that He responds to us ... not to people or to desperation and shame. As we turn to God in a powerful way, trusting and knowing that He responds to us, He will often work through other people ... but we are to "ask" of God and "let" Him do the work.



**man reflects God**

## MESSAGE TWO

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### PASSIONATE

“Move into this day loving everything that you see. See God in everything and love everything so much that the Good has no choice but to manifest before your eyes.”

Our feelings about God originate in our heart and soul. From our soul we realize that we can never be separated from God for God Is Life Itself. From our heart we realize the Love that God Is. At all times and in all people, the function and realization of the heart and the soul remain unblemished by any other beliefs, ideas, experiences or concepts. Only in our conscious mind and only when we separate ourselves from God by inattention, do we begin to believe otherwise.

Our relationship with God is the very same as our relationship with all things that we love. It must be fostered, nurtured and given loving attention. God

Is always loving us, but if we want to receive the highest and the greatest that God has for us, we must give our love to God first. "Seek thee first the kingdom of God, and then... then, all things will be added unto you." This is a masterful teaching for it explains the principle of sowing and reaping. We cannot harvest a seed that we do not plant. In other words we cannot receive that which we have not given "life" to. We give "life" to our ideas and desires by giving them our attention. The Master Mind Jesus declared, "It is done unto you as you believe." This is another way of understanding the law of cause and effect (sowing and reaping) and the law of mind. We can only believe with our mind, so therefore we are sowing the seeds of our experiences in our mind.

In the Science of Mind we learn to utilize the law of mind effectively. We realize that Jesus simply stated an irrefutable Truth, "It is done unto you as you believe." This is a powerful statement that is the basis for every experience that we have. Unless and until we subject our beliefs to the Truth, we will continue to experience discord in our life. To imagine a life of bliss is difficult for many of us simply because we do not see the possibility of this in the world. But, that is

the origin of the discord. As we look out into the world and see confusion, poverty, sickness and egotism, we are accepting these as the normal and natural way of the world. This is not the Truth. God Is All-In-All. We must discipline our mind to believe in the Good, rather than believe in the visible effects of the world. We can understand the necessity of this by looking at nature. As the caterpillar transitions into a butterfly, it goes through excruciating pain. But, it transitions into the beautiful butterfly forgetting the experience of the pain as it takes flight in regal beauty.

We must be just as passionate as the caterpillar and move forward through whatever it is that we are experiencing in order to experience a more beautiful, joyous and prosperous expression of life. As we enter into our life's experiences by putting our heart and soul into everything that we do, we automatically are in the flow of "seeking the kingdom." Our mind will be off our troubles, our illnesses and our limitation as we begin to soar onward and upward in mind. As we rise above the discord, we find life very different on the higher realms of thoughts and ideas. We begin to love life, love our self and love

others spontaneously, without reservation.

Everything happens in Divine Order, but we must turn from our anxieties, worry and fears and allow our highest and greatest Good to unfold. We cannot force our prayers to manifest before the right and perfect time, but we can put our heart and soul into motion as we move in the direction of our prayer knowing that all that is necessary is to seek it in mind. "My yoke is easy and my burden is light," Jesus assured us that the Comforter (Holy Spirit) will guide us and direct us as we align ourselves with the highest and greatest ideals that we can imagine.

Affirm often, "I have faith that divine order is working in me and in my life." This is a Unity affirmation that has worked seeming miracles in the lives of thousands of people. Our faith must be steadfast and immovable and our willingness to free our mind from the clutter of resentment, bitterness, blame and shame make way for the thoughts of success, prosperity, health and happiness. If we experience a struggle with negative thoughts we can affirm: "Divine Love fills my soul. It heals me, it prospers



me and it forgives me, as I heal, prosper and forgive all others." This affirmation clears our consciousness and puts us in alignment with the One Good that God Is. Speak this affirmation out loud until it is so ingrained in your mind that it comes to your remembrance easily. Say the words with passion and conviction so that they settle permanently into your subconscious and become a part of your firmly held beliefs. Passion spiritualizes our words and moves them to our heart and soul creating a believability that mere repetition can never achieve. These powerful words will remain with us, poised to negate all ideas, thoughts and concepts that are contrary to the Truth that they declare.

Often when I have counseled people when their situations seem most desperate, I suggest to them that they use a statement that has almost a sing-song quality to it and repeat the statement over and over again, out loud and silently. One of my favorite statements is: "Every time I turn around, God is blessing me!" Think about it, if you are saying these words how can your mind wander back to your problems? These words have an energy to them that almost automatically lifts the spirit and in

turn shuts out that “voice of doom” that attempts to overwhelm our turning to God with trust and hope. “Every time I turn around ... God is blessing me!” and sometimes I continue and say “thank you God! Thank you!” I can be very passionate about the whole thing, because I know that as I turn my mind to God, I am beginning the “lifting up” of my soul and leaving the old “stuff” behind. As Jesus pointed out, we “cannot pour new wine into old wine skins.” We must transform our mind ... renewing it with the spirit of Life, Love and Truth. Remember always that no matter where we are at or what we think we may have lost, it doesn’t matter for “He will return to me the years the locusts have eaten.” God restores, replenishes and renews and the process begins the moment we lift up our thoughts to Him.



**put your heart in it....**

**feel it ..... love it.... feel the joy.**

## MESSAGE THREE

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### PRAYER

"You are the Prayer - that You Pray."

There is no magic to prayer and there is no god up in the heavens to answer our prayer. The prayer and the one praying are One. For most of us this is a difficult concept to accept as we have been taught to beg and plead with a god that may or may not find us in its favor. This is not the God of the Old Testament or the God of the New Testament nor the God of any legitimate religious or spiritual teaching. There is much too much evidence in spiritual and religious literature revealing the true nature of God. The Master Teacher Jesus taught us to know that "I and the Father are One." He didn't mean that Jesus and God are One but the rest of us are separate and apart from the One Life that God Is. This could never be true and Jesus taught us to know the Truth. And where do we find God? Within our very own conscious union with God is

where we find All that we will ever need. By putting our attention on God, the Good. "When you see me, you see the Father," Jesus stated, for he knew that we are a reflection of the One. Jesus taught consciousness but over the years since He ascended from this Life to the Great Beyond, His words have been distorted, confused and the powerful teaching that He dedicated His life to, has been watered down to a view of man as helpless and hopeless and at the whim of a God or the devil depending by what standards he lives his life. This is a pathetic interpretation of the teachings of the most dynamic, powerful Teacher of Truth that the world has ever known. Our beliefs in a power other than God, is the cause of our beliefs in competition, superstition and a world that confronts us with challenges and struggles, rather than a universe that supports us in all things.

Jesus taught that we ask and we shall receive, seek and we shall find, knock and the door will be opened unto us. He taught that we are to ask knowing that our Father always hears our prayers. But we must ask in the affirmative. When Jesus was called to heal Lazarus, he did not pray "help me Father, please, to heal Lazarus, please God, please." No, he

merely stated: John 11:43 - And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth."

This is the manner in which Jesus taught us to pray. To speak with authority and dominion knowing that as we do the will of the Father (Creator of All Life), that we are aligned with the Power and Presence that God Is and therefore there is nothing to fear, nothing to doubt, nothing to block us from receiving that for which we pray. But, we must build a conviction so strongly in our consciousness that our words carry the authority of Truth for it is Truth that heals, God Is Truth, and Truth Is Love, not the person speaking the Truth. "I of mine own self can do nothing," Jesus said, "it is the Father that doeth the work, the Father works and I work."

Let's not allow ourselves to become confused and frustrated and attempt to force changes in a situation, condition or circumstance. We do not have the power, God Is The Power, the Only Power and God Is an Overwhelming Power for Good. But the Good must always be for the Good of All and not the means to a selfish end.

We must be prepared after we pray to move in the direction of the prayer's fulfillment. This may require us to gain more knowledge, become more loving or to challenge ourselves to be more and to do more than we have ever done before, as God can only do for us, what God can do through us. As we move in the direction of our prayer, we must know that God is moving with us. Affirm often that "God has led me to it, and God leads me through it," as we move in the consciousness of this understanding, we will be moving with the "experience of God."

To arrive at the conviction of faith to know, and to know that we know, we must cultivate a "self-image" in the "likeness and image" of the nature of God's "image" of us. We must foster and nurture the "idea" that we are perfect, whole and complete, now. Not perfect, whole and complete in the future or at some later day, but right now, in this moment, for in Truth we are. Our ideas that diminish our image of perfection are but the concepts of our mind that have been conformed to the world's idea of perfection. This is not God's way, or the way of Spirit. "Now is the appointed time, today is the day of my most amazing good

fortune." The day that we accept our perfection and change our minds about who and what we are and are about, is the day our most amazing good fortune begins to unfold in our life. Today is perfect. Today is the day. Know that as we move, God is moving with us. Sustain and maintain the idea that God is our All-in-All. As we discipline our mind to not be disturbed by the people, situations and conditions around us, we begin the process of "freeing" our mind of negative thoughts, resentments and the residue of negative past experiences.

As our mind becomes free we are ready to experience a richer, fuller more joyous life. Spiritual prosperity is the knowing that all our prayers are answered and that we are always provided for, guided, protected and loved. The idea of prosperity is sustained in our minds as we clear out all the "stuff" by dismissing negative thoughts, ideas and beliefs from our mind as they appear. Always remember: PROSPERITY IS ONE WITH A MIND THAT IS FREE.

Our mind must be free and clear. In order to free our mind we can make ready use of Scientific Prayer. As we begin the daily practice of Scientific

Prayer, we begin to notice changes in our "feelings" about life right away. The practice of Scientific Prayer creates a shift in our consciousness that is "receptive" to an expanded view of life. In Scientific Prayer we can move from our earthly limitations and "behold infinity."

In preparation for Scientific Prayer it is useful to read a passage from the Bible or an uplifting statement of Truth from a spiritual book or magazine. For some people merely sitting silently is just as effective. Either way, our intention is to move in mind to that quiet confidence and self-assurance that we are getting ourselves out of the way so that Spirit can flow through us. This movement of Spirit in our minds can spiritualize our words to bring a greater depth of conviction of the Truth.

Once we have moved into this greater state of mind, we will find peace, and it is time to proceed with the five steps of prayer as follows:

First - we Recognize God.  
God Is ALL-IN-ALL ... there is none other  
... All God, All the time ... God is the Doer  
... our work is to choose.



Second - we Unify with God ... with the Good.

I know that I Am One with the One. The Presence (Christ) of God is within me. I am both human and Divine.

Third – we arrive at the Realization that God Is reflected in our life experiences. God has imaged me and God has planted within me a Good desire. I know that this Good desire is of the Father and therefore I accept it with conviction and in the realization that “all that the Father hath is mine, NOW.”

Fourth – we take time for Thanksgiving.

I know that my faith is the substance of things hoped for and in faith and in gratitude, I now give thanks knowing that it is ... that on the Invisible Side Of Life, God Is responding to me in the affirmative.

To back up ... we have “recognized” God, Infinite Presence, Infinite Power and Infinite Intelligence ... One Mind ... now my mind is unified with the One Mind ... I am in a state of receptivity, a state of acceptance and deserving ... so I realize that my Good is assured ... that I can depend on God, the Principle of Life ... and

this is the Truth that sets me free. Now I am ready to:

Fifth – we Release.

I give it up to God. I let go of my feelings about it and let God be manifest in whatever it is. I release these words knowing that they are the Truth of this situation, the whole Truth and nothing less. I let go of all doubt or concern knowing that my highest and greatest Good manifests with grace and ease.

I affirm that IT IS SO by declaring...

**And So It Is**  
**Amen.**