



# PRAYING WITH PURPOSE MINISTRIES

## BIBLICAL NOTES & HIGHLIGHTS

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### **Seven Spiritual Principles • Genesis 1–11 • Book of Job**

#### **Introduction**

In the first few chapters of the book of Genesis, we read about the creation story, the fall of mankind and the destruction of mankind; however, there are Seven Spiritual Principles found in the creation story, which are life changing. Therefore, as we start our journey through the Bible, we want to embrace and become very familiar with these Seven Spiritual Principles (SSPs).

Why?

- When one allows these principles to govern his or her life it takes her or him back to the Garden of Eden before the fall — where God walked and talked with mankind (Adam and Eve) in the cool of the day.
- Man was in the proper environment in the Garden of Eden — in essence man was in the presence of God. Therefore, we want to learn how to create and maintain the conditions that will evoke the presence of God.
- Since God is a God of Principles, I believe by understanding and applying these SSPs in our everyday lives, it will help us create that environment for His Presence.
- Psalm 16:11b — *“You will show me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy, at Your right hand there are pleasures forevermore.”*
- These principles are here to help us live an abundant life by staying on that narrow path that leads to life, which Jesus talked about in Matthew 7:13–14:

*“Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. <sup>14</sup> But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.”*

They, when applied, will keep us from wandering off the narrow path into the broad path. In essence they are like a guard rail to keep you on the narrow path of abundant life.

- We want to establish a sound foundation as it relates to the SSPs.
- Praying with Purpose Ministries is based on these SSPs.

- The People’s Community Baptist Church Prayer Ministry is based on these SSPs.
- I have governed my life by these principles for over two decades.

But before we talk about the principles, what is the purpose or importance of reading through the Bible? I believe the apostle Peter tells us why it is so important in 2 Peter 1–4:

*“Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ,*

*To those who have <sup>[a]</sup>obtained like<sup>[b]</sup> precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:*

*<sup>2</sup> Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, <sup>3</sup> as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, <sup>4</sup> by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the <sup>[c]</sup>corruption that is in the world through lust.”*

By reading through the Bible, one will gain knowledge of God and Jesus because God and His Word are one. It is through the Bible, especially the Old Testament that one gains knowledge of God — His character, attributes and how He, the sovereign God, deals with His people.

Since God is a God of principles, let’s embrace these SSPs, which will ensure us a successful Christian life.

## **Seven Spiritual Principles**

### ***“God Is a God of Principles”***

- I Introduction
  - A. Paradigm (pattern, example) — Creation Story (Genesis 1, 2, 3, 8)
  - B. Plan — To rightly divide the Word of God in a simple, scriptural, Christ-centered manner.
  - C. Purpose — To know what we believe and how we believe it (principles for a successful Christian Life — Proverbs 3:1–4)
  
- II Fundamental Truths
  - A. All spiritual principles work by faith (Hebrews 11:6)
  - B. These principles cannot be fully comprehended with the natural mind (1 Corinthians 2:14)
  - C. Principles’ benefits are spiritually discerned (1 Corinthians 2:9–13)
  - D. The Holy Spirit is the organizer, enabler, director (John 14:26, 15:26, 16:11–14)
  
- III Seven Spiritual Principles\*
  - A. Organization — God’s plan to simplify our lives (Genesis 1:1–8)
    - 1. Paradigm: A doctrine-building principle
    - 2. Plan: To organize the organism (man/woman)
    - 3. Purpose: To be an effective witness for the Lord Jesus Christ, our Savior
  - B. Sow & Reap — God’s plan to provide for our lives (Genesis 1:9–12)
    - 1. Paradigm: A faith-building principle
    - 2. Plan: To receive the provisions of God
    - 3. Purpose: To super abound — having our needs met
  - C. Stewardship — God’s plan to fulfill our lives (Genesis 1:26–28, 2:15)
    - 1. Paradigm: A character-building principle
    - 2. Plan: To be a wise steward over the provisions of God
    - 3. Purpose: To super abound having our needs met and meet the needs of others
  - D. Authority — God’s plan to protect our lives (Genesis 2:16-17)
    - 1. Paradigm: A discipline-building principle
    - 2. Plan: To stay in position with God or under the Word of God
    - 3. Purpose: To actualize concepts/biblical truths for successful Christian living
  - E. Unconditional Love — God’s plan to keep us from failing (Genesis 2:18–25)
    - 1. Paradigm: A proper attitude-building principle
    - 2. Plan: To have good success with God and man
    - 3. Purpose: To have victory over evil circumstances
  - F. Obedience — God’s plan to reward our lives (Genesis 8:1–5)
    - 1. Paradigm: A righteousness-building principle
    - 2. Plan: To live in the blessed state
    - 3. Purpose: To put our faith into action
  - G. Agreement — God’s plan to crown us with peace (Genesis 8:6–21)
    - 1. Paradigm: A peace-sustaining principle
    - 2. Plan: To rest in God
    - 3. Purpose: To achieve the peace that Jesus promised

\*John A. Cherry, “Seven Spiritual Principles Series”, Audio Teaching Tapes, 1992, and Seven Spiritual Principles course at Full Gospel AMEZ Steven K. Wright School of Ministry, 1996.

The principle of Organization, the first principle, is vital; therefore, I have included a detailed outline.

## **Principle of Organization**

I Introduction — God’s plan to simplify our lives

II Paradigm (Pattern): Doctrine-building principle

**Know our essential doctrines of Christianity:**

The Deity of Christ — Jesus is God in flesh (John 1:1, 14) and The Trinity (Colossians 2:9)

Salvation by Grace (Ephesians 2:8–9; Galatians 5:4, 2:21; Romans 4:5)

The Resurrection of Christ (1 Corinthians 15:14, 17; John 2:19–21)

The Gospel — Jesus is God in flesh, who died for our sins, rose from the dead and freely gives the gift of eternal life to those who believe. (1 Corinthians 15:1–4; John 1:12; Romans 10:9–10)

A. To know what and how to believe spiritually

B. To know how to act and react to life situations/circumstances in the natural

C. Establish a consistent, godly lifestyle

III Plan: To organize the organism, (mankind) Holy Spirit — organizes internally and externally.

A. Born of His Spirit — Hear the preached Word and Confess (Romans 10:9–13)

B. Filled with Holy Spirit — (Mark 16: 15–18; John 14:16, 17, 26; Acts 1:4, 5; 2:1–4)

C. Empowered by the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:26–28)

D. Abound in the Fruit of Spirit (Galatians 5:22–23)

E. Led by His Spirit (Psalm 32:8; 119:105; John 10:3, 4, 27)

**The Holy Spirit organizes, sanctifies, anoints, and directs us in the affairs of life, so we will be successful, more than conquerors, thru Christ Jesus who loves us.**

- IV Purpose: To be an effective witness for the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 3:1–16, MGS)
  - A. Truth must be lived
  - B. Truth must be seen
  - C. Truth must be proclaimed
  
- V Practical Application — To put this principle to work in our lives
  - A. Make a Choice
  - B. Look at the Benefits
  - C. Offer it Up
  - D. Take Action
  - E. Make an Investment—
  - F. Discipline Yourself
  - G. Be a good Steward
  - H. Measure Your Success

### **Genesis Chapters 10–11**

Since we are reading chronological in the Bible we stopped at Genesis 11 and began reading in the book of Job which is the oldest book of the Bible according to biblical scholars.

Before we talk about Job, I want us to look at Genesis 10 — which gives us the genealogy after the flood. Noah had three sons: Japheth, Shem and Ham.

There is just one race — the human race and they all were speaking the same language and on one accord until God confounded their language in Genesis 11.

God said, because they were all on one accord speaking the same language, nothing would be impossible for them. Therefore, God confounded their language because their motives were wrong. However, after reading Genesis 11:6, The Holy Spirit spoke this to my heart. “If as one people speaking the same language, then nothing we plan to do will be impossible for us. We must all speak the language of LOVE.”

### **Book of Job**

In the book of Job, we are introduced to a man who according to scripture is blameless, righteous, and God-fearing (Job 1:1). This man was blessed with seven sons and three daughters and had great wealth. His sons feast regularly on their birthdays and special occasions and

invited their sisters to the feast. Because Job was such a righteous man and feared — revered God — after their feasting he would send for them to purify them by offering burnt offerings to God — just in case they sinned during the feasting (Job 1:5).

However, unbeknown to Job, he was being watched, observed not only by God, but by Satan who is the adversary and accuser of the brethren according to Revelations 12:10. Satan also goes around seeking whom he can devour.

Now, when we look at the entire book of Job, we can divide it into three parts:

1. Dilemma of Job, Chapters 1–2
2. Debate or discourse of Job, Chapters 3–37
3. Deliverance of Job, Chapters 38–42

What we see in the book of Job is the righteous suffering and a very long dialogue between Job and his friends on why Job, who is the righteous, is suffering. In the dialogue Job's friends do not see him as righteous. They think, he has sinned terribly against God and will not admit his sin; therefore, destruction from God has come upon him. Whereas, Job feels he has upheld his integrity and can't understand why all this destruction has come upon him and his household. He can't understand why he is suffering.

Job makes three complaints:

1. God is punishing me (6:4; 7:20; 9:17)
2. God does not hear me (13:3, 24; 19:7; 23:3–5)
3. God allows the wicked to prosper (21:7)

And, Here, in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, Christians still have the same question, as in the ancient days of Job, around the late second millennium (2000–1000 BC). **“Why do the righteous suffer?”**

The righteous suffer because the devil, Satan, is the god of this world according to 2 Corinthians 4:4 and he still goes around as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. Peter declares this in 1 Peter 5:8 and accusing the righteous.

Now, Job was not aware about Satan's challenge and accusation he made to God about him. And in the process of defending his innocence with his friends, he becomes guilty of self-righteousness.

We see this in Job 40:8:

*“Will you also annul (set aside and render void) My judgment? Will you condemn Me [your God], that you may [appear] righteous and justified?”*

The Holy Spirit revealed this to me to share with you. He said, “Don't condemn God to justify yourself; for every good and perfect gift comes from God, our Father (James 1:17). He doesn't put sickness on His children. Satan is the author of sickness and disease. God is the healer.”

God allows whatever we allow. He has given us authority in the earth realm to bind the enemy's attacks (Matthew 18:18). We must use our God-given authority to keep the enemy at bay and from wreaking havoc in our lives. We must use the Word of God like Jesus did when He was

tempted by Satan. He simply said, *“It is written...”* The Word is our sword, it will fight for us if we speak the Word in faith believing God. When we speak in faith, all heaven supports us with power from the Most High God.

Now, remember the story in Daniel (9:20–10:12–14). Daniel continued to pray and fast for 21 days before the prayer was answered because the “prince of Persia,” a wicked spirit, hindered the prayer. Gabriel, the angel, had to have reinforcement and help came from Michael, one of the chief princes of God.

Note this: if Daniel had not been steadfast and unmovable, he would not have gotten the answer. Therefore, as Christians, we must be vigilant because we have an adversary, along with his host, who brings afflictions, destructions, and sicknesses and diseases on the children of God.

Jesus said in John 10:10, *“The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.”*

To have that abundant life, we must set a guard over our mouth because life and death are in the power of the tongue. We don’t want to speak idle/folly words, like Job’s friends, Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar; but words of faith like Elihu, the young man. The name Elihu means God is Lord. I believe he created the environment or prepared the way for God Almighty to show up in the whirlwind — by exalting God to Job and his friends. Elihu speaks of God’s character and attributes. He assures Job that God is a just God who rewards the righteous and punishes the wicked.

Notice in the text God didn’t rebuke or chastise Elihu like he did with Job’s three friends — Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar; for by our words we shall be justified or condemned. Let’s not condemn ourselves with our words.

Lastly, what principle(s)/practical application can be extracted from the book of Job? Let’s look at Job 42:1–10:

*Then Job replied to the LORD:*

<sup>2</sup> *“I know that you can do all things;  
no purpose of yours can be thwarted.*

<sup>3</sup> *You asked, ‘Who is this that obscures my plans without knowledge?’  
Surely I spoke of things I did not understand,  
things too wonderful for me to know.*

<sup>4</sup> *“You said, ‘Listen now, and I will speak;  
I will question you,  
and you shall answer me.’*

<sup>5</sup> *My ears had heard of you  
but now my eyes have seen you.*

<sup>6</sup> *Therefore I despise myself  
and repent in dust and ashes.”*

<sup>7</sup> After the LORD had said these things to Job, he said to Eliphaz the Temanite, “I am angry with you and your two friends, because you have not spoken the truth about me, as my servant Job has.” <sup>8</sup> So now take seven bulls and seven rams and go to my servant Job and sacrifice a burnt offering for yourselves. My servant Job will pray for you, and I will accept his prayer and not deal with you according to your folly. You have not spoken the truth about me, as my servant Job has.” <sup>9</sup> So Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite did what the LORD told them; and the LORD accepted Job’s prayer. <sup>10</sup> After Job had prayed for his friends, the LORD restored his fortunes and gave him twice as much as he had before.

There are three main principles operating in the book of Job that I would like to share. The **Principle of Agreement**, which is God’s plan to crown our lives with peace.

As believers, we need to learn like Job to stop trying to reason things beyond us and stop babbling about things we know not of, but agree with God’s Word and rest in Him. Because some things cannot be comprehended with the natural mind (1 Corinthians 2:14), they must be spiritually discerned. Elihu had spiritual discernment. When we do this, we will achieve the peace that Jesus promised.

After making a decision to agree with God and His Word, we must take a step of faith and obey. By operating in the **Principle of Obedience**, which is God’s plan to reward our lives, we can be assured that God will restore to us what the devil stole. The **Principle of Obedience** is a righteousness-building principle and when one is in right standing with God, one can live in the “blessed state”.

Job was considered a righteous man and when he repented and got back in right standing with God, God restored to him double.

Also, one sees the underlying **Principle of Unconditional Love**, which is God’s plan to keep us from failing (that we might have good success with God and man). This is a proper attitude-building principle. The overall purpose/goal is to overcome evil circumstances. Romans 8:37 tells us, “we are more than conquerors through Christ who loves us.”

It is important to remember that PRAYER is vital in the Christian life because it was after Job prayed that God restored Job and forgave his friends.

## LET’S PRAY

Father, I pray, as believers, we will not try to justify ourselves by condemning You or try to defend Your integrity because Your Word speaks for You. You and Your Word are one. I ask You to help us, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to simply agree with Your Word and put our faith into action. I thank You for the grace to obey — truly, Your grace is sufficient. Now, may we, Your children, increase in overflowing love, in Jesus’ Name. Amen