

PRAYER & FAITH GUIDE

How to Have Your *Prayers Answered*

What to actually believe, confess, and do while you wait, so you're not just hoping for an answer. You're building the faith that carries you to it.

"Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry." — Habakkuk 2:2-3

First, Some *Honesty*

You are believing God for something. Your body. Your marriage. Your finances. Your mind. And right now, you are in a waiting season, and somebody has already told you God's got this.

He does. Write that down and settle it in your spirit: God is not a man, that he should lie.

"God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?"

NUMBERS 23:19

But you must understand something. Faith is not sentiment. Faith is not a nice feeling you carry into a waiting season and hope holds up. Faith is a spiritual force, and it is the only force by which a believer takes delivery of what heaven has already released.

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

HEBREWS 11:1

Substance. Not a wish. Not a mood. Faith is legal title to what you are standing for, settled before it ever shows up in the natural. This is why hoping is not a strategy. Hoping has no substance to it. Faith does.

This waiting season will reveal exactly what you believe. Not what you confess with your mouth when the church is watching, but what is settled in your spirit when nobody is watching and the answer has not yet appeared.

You were not born again to live beneath your privileges as a joint heir with Christ.

"And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ."

ROMANS 8:17

Every promise in this book is already Yes and Amen over your life in Christ Jesus (2 Corinthians 1:20). So before you go one day further into this wait, get honest with yourself about two words: logos and rhema. What you are believing God for is not carried by a verse you scanned once and forgot. It is carried by a word the Holy Ghost quickens to your spirit until it becomes final authority over your situation.

Logos and *Rhema*

There are two Greek words in the New Testament translated "word." Logos and rhema. You need to know the difference, or your prayer life is going to stay stuck on the surface.

Logos is the whole word of God. Every page. Every book. Every promise, from Genesis to Revelation. It doesn't change. It was true before you were born, and it will be true after you're gone. Logos is the whole armory. It's every promise sitting on the shelf, available to you.

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

JOHN 1:1

"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit... and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

HEBREWS 4:12

Rhema is different. Rhema is a specific word. A verse that used to just sit there on the page, and then one day it moves. It gets up. It becomes alive on the inside of you, and you know, that you know, that you know, that verse is for you, right now, for exactly what you're standing in faith for.

"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

ROMANS 10:17

Notice it doesn't say faith comes by hearing the whole logos. It says faith comes by the word, the rhema, spoken and quickened to you specifically. That's not by accident.

How a Verse Becomes *Yours*

Here's how it actually works. You go into the logos, the whole word, looking for your promise. You read, you search, and one verse starts to stand out. It won't let you go. You read past it and something pulls you back. That's the Holy Spirit doing His job.

“But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.”

JOHN 14:26

When that happens, stop skimming. Stop reading twenty pages a day just so you can feel like you did your devotions. It is not about how much you read. It is about the quality of what you actually get ahold of. Take that one verse, three verses, whatever it is, and meditate on it until you cannot be talked out of it.

“This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night... for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.”

JOSHUA 1:8

The verse you can't shake, the one that feels like it was written directly to you, the one that shows up again in the sermon, in a conversation, in your own reading, three different times in one week? That's your rhema. That's the word you build your whole waiting season on. Not a general good feeling about God. A specific word.

Go find it before you read another page of this guide. Open your Bible, search on your situation, and don't stop until one verse gets up off the page.

Believe It. Confess It. *Move on It.*

Once you have your rhema word, here is what you do with it. Faith is not a feeling you're waiting to catch. Faith is three things working together: believing, speaking, and acting. Leave one out and the other two won't carry the weight.

BELIEVE In Your Heart

"What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them."

MARK 11:24

Believing isn't denying what you see. It's seeing something bigger in your spirit than what's in front of you. You may not like the report you got, from the doctor, the bank, the test, the person. Believe the report of the Lord over the report in front of you anyway. That's what faith is for.

CONFESS With Your Mouth

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made."

ROMANS 10:9-10

God likes loud mouths. You could be believing everything right in your heart, but if you keep your mouth shut, you will not see the fullness of what you could have. Violent faith is activated by violent speaking. Say your rhema word out loud, every day, even when it doesn't look true yet. You'll feel like an idiot the first few times. Say it anyway.

"Death and life are in the power of the tongue."

PROVERBS 18:21

ACT With Your Feet

"Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone... shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works."

JAMES 2:17-18

Relationship, Not *Emergency Help*

Here's a question I need you to sit with honestly. When you go to God about this, is that a normal part of an ongoing relationship you already have with Him? Or is that the only time you've talked to Him in months, and you needed a flare shot up because things got bad?

There is nothing wrong with asking for prayer. The Bible tells us to come into agreement with other believers, and to bring our need before the elders of the church.

"Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

MATTHEW 18:19-20

But it becomes a problem when you know exactly what you're supposed to do, and refuse to do it, and instead try to piggyback off someone else's faith. Your prayer team, your pastors, your small group, they can stand in agreement with you. They cannot have a relationship with God for you.

A good relationship with God is not "God, give me, give me, give me," with your life, your way, doing what you want when you want to do it. That's not Christianity, and it's not the kind of faith that holds up what you're waiting on while it's on its way to being answered.

So while you wait, don't just wait on the answer. Build the relationship. Get in the word on your own, not just when things fall apart. Talk to God about the ordinary stuff, not just the emergencies. Because the depth of your relationship with Him going into this season determines how much of His voice you're able to hear and hold onto while you wait.

The *Checklist*

Print this. Keep it somewhere you'll actually see it. Work through it every day of the wait, not just the first one.

- ☐ Find your rhema word. Read the whole passage around it in context, not just the one line.
- ☐ Write your verse down somewhere you'll see it every day. Your mirror, your dashboard, your lock screen.
- ☐ Say your verse out loud, every day, whether it looks true yet or not.
- ☐ Thank God in advance for the answer, before you see it.
- ☐ Guard your mouth. Don't confess the opposite of what you're believing for.
- ☐ Take one obedient action this week connected to what you're believing for. Don't wait for the whole roadmap. Do the next thing.
- ☐ Get in the word daily, not just in the moments you're desperate.
- ☐ Don't isolate. Stay in a Core Class, a small group, or a prayer gathering.
- ☐ Keep a running list of what God has already done for you. Read it back to yourself when the wait gets long.
- ☐ Ask yourself honestly: am I building a relationship, or am I only showing up in an emergency?

Scriptures for the *Wait*

Find the category closest to your situation. Read the whole chapter it's from, not just the verse below. Then take the one that grabs you and turn it into your rhema word.

ON WAITING

"But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

ISAIAH 40:31

"Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD."

PSALM 27:14

"It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the LORD."

LAMENTATIONS 3:26

"But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it."

ROMANS 8:25

ON HEALING

"For I will restore health unto thee, and I will heal thee of thy wounds, saith the LORD."

JEREMIAH 30:17

"But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed."

ISAIAH 53:5

"Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases."

PSALM 103:2-3

"Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him... and the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up."

JAMES 5:14-15

ON BREAKTHROUGH & DELIVERANCE

“The righteous cry, and the LORD heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles.”

PSALM 34:17

“Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.”

PSALM 34:19

“Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.”

ROMANS 8:37

“Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God’s.”

2 CHRONICLES 20:15

ON PEACE OF MIND

“Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.”

ISAIAH 26:3

“Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you... let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”

JOHN 14:27

“I sought the LORD, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears.”

PSALM 34:4

“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”

MATTHEW 11:28

WHILE YOU WAIT

It will not *tarry*

God did not forget your name. He is not slow. What you're waiting on is already on its way, and while it travels, you have a job to do: get your rhema word, believe it, confess it, and move on it, out of an actual relationship with Him, not a once-a-crisis phone call. That's the whole guide. Do that, and the wait will build something in you that the answer alone never could have.

“For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.”

HABAKKUK 2:3

“Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.”

MATTHEW 25:21