

Prayer and Probability

William B. Miller
12/01/2020

Preface:

Very rarely will we see a paper on prayer and probability from a measurement science mathematical perspective, so I hope this paper will stir an intriguing look at prayer. I want to emphasize relationship with Christ and knowing His love for us is first and foremost, this is not to mechanicalize that relationship. The verse “there is no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus” is awesome because many might say you can’t put a successful prayer life into an “equation”, but I will suggest after spending years in mathematics and ministry there does come a time when you look at things differently. Before anyone passes judgment on this proposal (probably too late to say that) please allow me the grace of decades of thought, research, relationship, and just enjoying the beauty of God being a God of organization. Having been a Christian as long as I can remember, this “suggestion” comes with over thirty years of aerospace measurement uncertainty analysis and applying these concepts to our instructions from Jesus. This evocation is also to stir thought in your walk with Christ just as in our relationships with our spouses or someone very close to us.

To give some examples, our routines can be mathematically modeled with a probability outcome. If we get up and love on our family before going to work we will probably all have a better day than if we get up grumpy, or the longer we meditate on the good aspects of a person the more we appreciate them ([Philippians 4:8](#)). Therefore, positive thought with respect to time grows appreciation. We could even use the example of Joshua being told to keep the book of the law on his lips, meditating on it day and night, then he will be prosperous and successful ([Joshua 1:8](#)). “If - Then” statements are common to mathematical application.

Additionally, my wife and I spent over twelve years studying different Christian Prayer Ministries and Pastors across the United States. This following a season where we were re-introduced to God’s living Word that saw my wife healed from years of debilitating back pain, after a little over an hour of prayer, by faithful prayer warriors who embraced these same principles. We have seen many others healed since that experience and began our investigative journey to seek the full truth in God’s love for us all. So, I ask, please enjoy the equation to follow as a study or thought-provoking tool for meditation on God’s Word, checking every thought with the scriptures.

To preface some potential concerns, this paper is not addressing whether someone will be saved nor is it meant to imply a probability distribution to salvation. It is about our relationship with God, our spiritual growth, and seeing our prayers answered in an incredible way. If a probability distribution was suggested, I would hope it would be going from zero increasing to a vertical asymptote, approaching the full understanding of the love of God. At no point is this proposal intended to supersede or take the place of seeking a personal intimate relationship

with the Father, Jesus, or the Holy Spirit ([Matthew 6:33](#)). Their overwhelming love for us has set us free ([John 8:36](#)).

The following equation is based on already believing in Christ as our Savior and our position in Him as a new creation ([2 Corinthians 5:17](#)). Leaving the old man behind which Christ crucified and being transformed into that new creation. God has given us a Spirit of love, power, and sound mind ([2 Timothy 1:7](#)). He has written to us His good and pleasing will, giving us His Holy Spirit ([1 Corinthians 6:19](#)) and making us co-heirs ([Romans 8:17](#)) and ambassadors ([2 Corinthians 5:20](#)) to His throne. This perspective drives the vision for the equation.

God has also spoken His plan in His Word and will not override anything He has said will happen ([Ezekiel 24:14](#)). Remember Jesus could not do many miracles in His own hometown for their lack of belief, ([Mark 6:5](#)) yet all throughout the gospels all who came to Jesus were healed ([Luke 6:19](#)). Jesus has passed this calling on to us ([Matthew 10:8](#)) with His Spirit in us, to prove His good and pleasing will ([Romans 12:2](#)). So, without further delay, this is my current proposal (subject to change as I grow in the Word) with a brief description of each variable to follow.

The equation:

Even if you do not understand the equation the comments on the variables will be of value. The integrals are simply to help visualize the growth process involved for the remaining half of the equation. That is, we grow in faith or in other areas the more time we put into them until we are 100 % established in His love.

$$\begin{aligned}
 & f(\text{Outcome Probability}) \\
 & = P(\text{Salvation}) * P(\text{Love}) * P(\text{Faith}) * P(\text{Works}) * P(\text{Forgiveness}) \\
 & * P(\text{KingdomBehavior}) * P(\text{Livinginthe Spirit}) * P(\text{GodsWill}) \\
 & * P(\text{SpokenWords}) \\
 & * \int_0^{\text{Time Learning}} \int_0^{100\% \text{ Understanding}} [(\text{Hearing}(\text{Faith})) + (\text{Knowledge}(\text{Word})) \\
 & + (\text{Traditions}(\text{Man})) + (\text{Meditation}(\text{Word})) + (\text{Practice}(\text{Word})) \\
 & + (\text{Understanding}(\text{Word})) + (\text{Fullness}(\text{Word})) + (\text{Belief}(\text{Word})) \\
 & + (\text{Belief}(\text{Faith})) + (\text{Belief}(\text{Time})) + (\text{Belief}(\text{Ofothers})) \\
 & + (\text{Understanding}(\text{GodsLove}))] dbdt
 \end{aligned}$$

Where:

P is either a "0" or "1" probability. All other parameters vary from 0 % to 100 % learning and understanding, "db" relative to one's understanding or belief and "dt" is with respect to linear time.

Complicated right? Not really. In order to live in the fullness of God we need to understand the fullness of His love for us ([Ephesians 3:18](#)). The communication of our faith becomes effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing already in us in Christ Jesus ([Philemon 1:6](#)). It is His goodness that leads to repentance ([Romans 2:4](#)). All we do is love God and love our neighbor

as ourselves as the verse says ([Matthew 22:37-40](#)). This knowledge and understanding will stir the Spirit within us to create the change for our Soul to prosper ([3 John 1:2](#)).

The Variables:

f(Outcome Probability): Simply suggests that the success of our prayers can largely be related to the variables that follow in the equation. If we had a business or manufacturing operation that did not measure and take captive ([2 Corinthians 10:5](#), [Luke 14:28](#)) all process variables we would see an outcome with random solutions. Is it possible the same is true for our prayer life?

P(Salvation): Jesus is the way, the truth, and the light ([John 14:6](#)). Apart from Him we can do nothing ([John 15:5](#)). When we accept Christ as our Lord and Savior Jesus gives us a deposit of the Holy Spirit, a counselor, a guide ([Ephesians 1:14](#)). The Holy Spirit is key to an empowered prayer life, who comes through salvation.

P(Love): God has given us a spirit of Love. Without love faith is just a clanging cymbal ([1 Corinthians 13:1](#)). God is love ([1 John 4:8](#)). To operate without love is to miss the fullness of God. The love of God and loving others as ourselves fulfills all the laws of the prophets ([Romans 13:10](#)). That said, we need to learn to love ourselves as God loves us. You were created with the same hands that created the universe, wonderfully and beautifully made ([Psalms 139:14](#)).

P(Faith): If we have no faith then there is no foundation to believe God for anything. We walk by faith not by sight ([2 Corinthians 5:7](#)). What eyes do we see with daily? What lens (traditions of men) are we looking through, in our perceptions? Are we walking according to the flesh (worldly circumstances) or according to the Spirit, the solid unchanging truth of the Word ([Romans 8:4](#))? It is impossible to please God without faith ([Hebrews 11:6](#)).

P(Works): Faith without works is dead ([James 2:18](#)). What good is being able to move a mountain if we do not use the power we have been given to move it? One misunderstood concept of "works" is that it is just for doing good. Yet the works Jesus did were signs and wonders. Is it possible the "works" Jesus referred to, were for us to perform signs and wonders in His name ([John 14:12](#))? Did He not say these will be the signs of the believers, they will cast out demons, heal the sick and raise the dead ([Luke 10:19](#), [Matthew 10:8](#))? What do we believe is the spirit of power within us? God said He has given us His Son's spirit ([Romans 8:15](#)). If we have the Spirit of Jesus within us what are we able to do? Can it be true that all things are possible in Christ Jesus (as the Word says) ([Mark 9:23](#), [Matthew 19:26](#), [Mark 10:27](#))? What else is already in you in Christ Jesus? As HE is in this world so are you in this world ([1 John 4:17](#)). What does that mean to us?

P(Forgiveness): This is the hard one. The disciples could handle performing all the signs of the believers but had to ask how many times must they forgive ... seventy times seven Jesus said ([Matthew 18:21](#)). Jesus forgave everyone on the cross leaving absolutely no room for us to hold unforgiveness against even one person. If anyone has anything against his neighbor, he is to resolve it immediately ([Mark 11:25](#)) and not let the sun set on his anger ([Ephesians 4:26](#)). What we hold onto that has not been forgiven will get in the way of us progressing, as it leaves

a weight in our hearts. Since Christ died for all and forgave all, we have no right not to forgive as He did. He purchased it with His life. Anything less will not inherit the kingdom of God here on earth, and surely gives a foothold to the devil ([Ephesians 4:27](#)).

P(KingdomBehavior): The Bible is clear that there are things that do not inherit the kingdom of God ([1 Corinthians 6:9-11](#), [Ephesians 5:5](#), [Galatians 5:19-21](#), [1 Corinthians 15:50](#)). If we do not operate within His kingdom inheritance ([2 Corinthians 5:20](#), [Romans 8:17](#)), should we expect to walk in the fullness of his power? As an example, if we are a US citizen, we have certain rights, but if we do wrong or do not know these rights, we will not be able to enjoy these benefits. The Kingdom of God is righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit ([Ephesians 4:27](#), [Romans 14:17](#)).

P(LivingintheSpirit): Without the Holy Spirit we are powerless doing battle in the spiritual world, where scripture says we are to live ([Ephesians 6:12](#)). God's Word is spirit and life ([John 6:63](#)). God speaks to us Spirit to spirit ([1 Corinthians 2:10](#)). How can we possibly battle in the world if we do not have the ability to battle in the spirit? Of course, many already have the counselor but never use His guidance. When was the last time you heard from your guide? It is said by many successful healing ministries that around seventy percent of our physical issues are spiritual issues. How would we know if all we battle with is what we see with our eyes? The Spirit of power we have been given divides joints and marrow, ([Hebrews 4:12](#)) pulls down and demolishes strongholds, ([2 Corinthians 10:14](#)) and does things beyond what we could humanly do in ourselves. It is an exciting life, filled with wonders in the Spirit, and moves in the fullness of God's love.

P(Godswill): God did not leave us in the dark. The verse says if we ask anything within His will it will be done for us ([1 John 5:14](#)). Therefore, it is critical that we know His will. He says it is His will that we be of good health and prosperous, ([3 John 1:2](#)) that all would be saved ([1 Timothy 2:4](#)) (or sozo'd in the Greek, which by definition means completely restored in all areas). Though He wants all saved, not all will be saved. Imagine a father gives his son the car keys but the son takes the car and breaks the law. It is not the fathers will that the son would break the law, but the son had the free will to make the right choice. Is it possible God gave us the keys to the kingdom of heaven too, but we are called to make the right choices? Jesus bore all our infirmities and set us free from sin and condemnation ([Titus 2:14](#), [Romans 3:24](#)). He knows the plans He has for us, good plans for you ([Jeremiah 29:11](#)). It is through reading the Word that we know His will. It is through the Holy Spirit we are given guidance in fulfilling His will. God's good, perfect, and pleasing will CAN be known, and we are to prove it out ([Romans 12:2](#)), for as the Word says, we have the mind of Christ ([1 Corinthians 2:16](#)).

P(SpokenWords): Our choice of words is imperative. Scripture says we will be held accountable for every idle word spoken ([Matthew 12:36-37](#)). If life and death are in the power of the tongue ([Proverbs 18:21](#)) is it possible our words are shaping our lives simply by how we speak ([Proverbs 21:23](#), [James 3:2-6](#))? God created the universe by speaking. Jesus told us to speak to the mountain, storm, or whatever the situation is in our lives ([Mark 11:22-23](#)). Is it possible our words are getting in the way of a successful prayer life? Example: Imagine if someone asked if

you would pray for their sickness. First, Christ died and purchased all our sicknesses, so they are not ours. Second, if we ask God to heal them is it possible He might say, "I already did, my healing is in you and in my Word". Lastly, we speak the healing in the name of Jesus, pain to go away, and/or rebuke the sickness, giving thanks and praise to God, just as Jesus did the fig tree, the storm, and any other issue. Everything He created was by His spoken word ([Genesis 1](#)).

Hearing(Faith): Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God ([Romans 10:17](#)). The more we hear the Word the more our faith grows. The stronger our faith the greater we are prepared for what we will encounter in life. Hearing the Word builds our armor giving us knowledge to stand with confidence ([Ephesians 6:10-18](#)). Testimonies build faith!!

Knowledge(Word): The more knowledge of the Word we have the more we know of the power we already have within us and how to operate within the kingdom of God. Scripture says my people perish for lack of knowledge ([Hosea 4:6](#)). It also states my people are kept in bondage, captivity (or go into exile depending on the translation we reference) for lack of knowledge ([Isaiah 5:13](#)). The communication of our faith becomes affectual by acknowledging every good thing already in us in Christ Jesus ([Philemon 1:6](#)). You can preach yourself happy in minutes. If the Word (the Bible) which became flesh and dwelt among us is Jesus, and we do not know the Word, could that affect the fullness of our relationship with Jesus? Our perception of God also affects the outcome of prayer. Those who see him as wrathful tend to get what they believe ([Matthew 25:14-28](#)). Rather, those who see him as how His names describe Him see Abba, Father ([Romans 8:15](#)). His divine power has given us everything necessary for life and godliness through our knowledge of Him ([2 Peter 1:3](#)).

Traditions(Man): There is a way that seems right to a man whose ways end in destruction ([Philippians 3:19](#)). As noted, traditions of man can make null and void the Word of God ([Mark 7:13](#)). It can be difficult to question the knowledge of someone we respect or specific religious institute, and interpretation of theology is certainly a tenuous subject. However, it was important enough for Jesus to note in scripture. I once met a Thermodynamisist that was highly revered but made a big mistake in his temperature calculation on a satellite. I could see people whispering to each-other, but no one would say anything to him. They would rather risk millions of dollars and years of work than speak the truth. Why do we do that? Honestly, it is because of pride, being self-centered, or having low confidence rather than standing on what is most important. What traditions do we hold onto that impede our walking in the miraculous every day? We are promised we can walk above or even beyond what we can imagine, and in an overflowing life ([Ephesians 3:20](#)). It would be a tragedy to live a life of partial truth because a tradition of man has determined some parts of the Bible have "passed away". God never rebuked anyone for over believing, but very often rebuked for lack of believing.

Meditation(Word): Revelation often comes through meditation ([Proverbs 7:1-3](#)). Meditation on the Word keeps us in wisdom and gives insight. If God has already given us everything necessary for life and godliness ([2 Peter 1:3](#)), then is it possible we often have already been given the answers, but just need more time in His living Word? We begin to dream and have visions that provide clarity and even prophecy or encouragement ([Philippians 4:19](#)). It prepares

us for action because we have taken time to have a testimony for why we believe what we believe and apply our faith in action. His Word is Spirit and life ([John 6:63](#)). It makes us prosper in whatever we do ([Joshua 1:8](#), [Psalm 1:2-3](#)).

Practice(Word): The Word is given to us to put it into practice ([Philippians 4:9](#)). What good is knowledge if it is never used? What good is love if it is never shared? Our God is a God of action, the Word is alive and active ([Hebrews 4:12](#)). It takes on an action once spoken ([Proverbs 18:21](#)). It will not return void. The more we put the Word into practice (or sow) the more we have opportunity to share (reap) in the beauty of God's glory.

Understanding(Word): It is hard to pray or speak in the power of the Word if we do not understand it. Understanding comes with knowledge and wisdom in the Word through the Holy Spirit. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us ([John 1:14](#)). The Word is Jesus. Our level of understanding the Word strengthens the outcome of our faith when we pray. In Daniel 10:7-14 God answered Daniels prayer immediately, but the prince of Persia delayed the Angel sent to Daniel 22 days. Too many would jump to changing their theology instead of trusting God's Word, walking by sight instead of by faith. Praise God we now have the mystery of Christ in us, the hope of glory ([Colossians 1:27](#))! Without understanding of the Word, we cannot stand in the full armor of God. If the Word is Jesus ([Revelations 19:13](#)) then is it necessary to understand the Word in order to understand the nature and character of God? If the Word gives life, then could understanding the Word bring life with joy and peace to us?

Fullness(Word): How many times do we hear a partial gospel? If we only hear part of the Word and not the whole Word how can we grow in its fullness? How much we understand the fullness of God's love opens the doors to us to live in His fullness. We need to continually be in relationship with Him. Forget not all God's promises (benefits) ([Psalm 103:2](#)) and acknowledge every good thing already in you ([Philippians 1:6](#)). Can we name them? There are literally hundreds of them.

Belief(Word): What we believe in the Word will affect the outcome of our prayer life ([Proverbs 23:7](#)). What we believe about the Word will affect what we experience ([James 1:25](#)). Do we judge God faithful or alter our theology to a limited view based on our experiences with partial knowledge, and not what the word says?

Belief(Faith): The Bible says have faith and believe. Faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see ([Hebrews 11:1](#)). Remember the verse where Jesus said it will be done to you as you believe? What if what we believe determines the outcome of what we ask? What if power in our prayers was simply limited to what we believe? If we believe that we receive when we pray, we shall have it within God's will ([Matthew 21:22](#), [Mark 11:23, 24](#)). This is not a name it claim it, but operating within His will for His glory. Situations should not alter our faith; our faith should alter our situations.

Belief(Time): Many people are not sure of God's timing. True, in some areas we do not know His timing. There are many scriptures about patience ([Hebrews 6:12](#)). However, God's Word is also very clear there are things for this age and in the age to come. Not knowing God's timing

can put doubt in our prayers, affecting our confidence. Yes, there is an end time, but God is outside of time and space. He is the beginning and the end, but there is a finished work that is for us today as well. Believing we can speak God's Word into a situation now, and know we have a result now (whether we see it or not immediately) is the truth and beauty of the full gospel message. Blessed are those who believe without seeing ([John 20:29](#)). We saw many instant healings and some that took longer through our research. Only God can see the heart of a man and it is from the heart we believe.

Belief(Others): The eye is the light of the body ([Matthew 6:22](#)) and we mentioned faith comes by hearing. The people we surround ourselves with have a significant role in our beliefs, either building us up in the Lord or keeping us in bondage. In [1 Corinthians 12](#), it tells how believers are a part of one body in Christ. In an abundance of counselors there is safety ([Proverbs 11:14](#)). Proverbs also has many verses about the importance of choosing with who we surround ourselves. Keep in mind if a gang member gets advice from a larger gang he is still misled. The body of Christ is larger than one religious' denomination. Through His Word and Spirit, we can have the wisdom to discern. We know anything not of faith is sin ([Romans 14:23](#)). We also know uncertainty is doublemindedness ([James 1:8](#)). However, we all only know in part ([1 Corinthians 13:9](#)). This means we (try to) find groups to meet with that build each other up in the Lord ([Hebrews 10:25](#)), do not complain ([Philippians 2:14-16](#)), who check everything to scripture ([1 Thessalonians 5:21](#)), who love (or desire to love) the Word ([Revelations 19:13](#), [Psalm 119](#) (though we are no longer under law but under grace)), who walk by faith and not by sight, who expect the miraculous, who desire to live in the Spirit ([Galatians 5:25](#)), who love God, and who show grace yet hold each-other accountable ([Galatians 6:1](#)).

Understanding(GodsLove): This is the greatest and maybe most misunderstood of all variables. It is the variable that opens the doors completely to everything we could possibly hope for or imagine, yet it is unfortunately the least understood. Why do I say that? Too many people do not understand the fullness of His love, spending much of their time thinking they are not good enough, God is punishing them, or uncertain if He even hears them. God swears He will no longer be angry with you ([Isaiah 54:9-10](#)). Too often we are taught we live under law instead of recognizing and embracing that we are under His amazing grace ([Ephesians 2:8](#)). Maybe forgetting we are called to live in the spirit where there is no law ([Romans 6:14](#), [Galatians 5:22-23](#)). Jesus gave His life for us, removing our sins as far as the east is from the west. Why do we focus on ourselves instead of what Jesus finished on the cross ([John 19:30](#))? Christ buried all our infirmities, past present and future, in the grave thousands of years ago, once for all ([Romans 6:6-10](#)). Many will sing about the overwhelming love of God and then quickly move on to the next thought of worry instead of being overwhelmed by God's love. They will even say love is not an emotion, but I beg to differ by the definition of overwhelmed. There is an experience of God's love and glory that changes us forever because it is beyond our physical ability to handle His glory in full. Once we understand the fullness of God's love we can finally live in His fullness ([Ephesians 3:14-21](#)). This understanding in its-self will have the most impact on our prayer life.

Summary:

Every variable in the equation has some effect on the outcome of our prayer life. Pursuing a living relationship with the Holy Spirit where we talk with Him every day accelerates time and wisdom. We can hear from God daily just as if we have a counselor walking with us day and night, because we do. God will never leave us or forsake us. Stay in His Word day and night. Take each variable in the equation and ask yourself, where am I in this area? Do we believe God's Word like Abraham or Joshua or Noah (because God credited their faith to them as righteousness) or do we fulfill the verse that says anything not of faith is sin? Of the twelve spies that went into the promised land only two believed God, the only two who allowed to go into the promised land. Which do we identify with? Trust the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding and He will make your paths straight ([Proverbs 3:5-6](#)). Our identity is in Christ Jesus (as He is on this earth so are we) ([1 John 4:17](#)). In Him, we live and move and have our being ([Acts 17:28](#)). Do we walk in the same love and power as Jesus did? Do I speak and believe with Jesus faith as a co-heir to the throne? Seek Him first and all these things shall be added unto you makes the complicated simple. For this is our confidence (maybe our probability in outcome?) in Him, if we ask anything according to His will, we know that He hears us, then we have ("already have" according to some translations) what we've asked ([1 John 5:13-15](#), [Mark 11:22-25](#)). Do not fear but be of great joy for God is with us ([Luke 2:1-14](#)). He hears our prayers!

Remember:

- Just because you do not see an answer does not mean God is not hearing or working in your life. You have enough faith, it is the faith of God we use, not ours.
- There is a spiritual battle going on. Learning to walk in the Spirit and choose our words from scripture (the sword of the Spirit) will overcome situations. Just as Jesus used "it is written" to battle Satan.
- Our belief system and that of the people we surround ourselves with affect our prayer outcome. If you need healing, find those who have testimonies about healing on a regular basis to help you believe and receive. Stir up the spirit within!
- Knowledge of the Word, our identity in Christ, and our legal kingdom authority in the spiritual realm changes our expectations and how we pray, which removes us from bondage and destruction ([Isaiah 5:13](#), [Hosea 4:6](#)). You have the same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead in you now. How would He respond to problems or successes?
- Of the twelve spies that went into the promised land only two believed God, the only two who allowed to live there. Which do you identify with?
- Do not fear but be of great joy for God is with us ([Luke 2:1-14](#)). He hears your prayers and His shalom has been poured out over us like honey and oil!
- If we do not ask God or speak to the situation we may not experience the fullness of what God has for us. Talk to Him!

Example prayers:

- Jesus prayed; “Rise up”, “be healed”, “your sins are forgiven”, “thank you Father for hearing me”, “Lazarus come out”, “Peace, be still”, “Forgive them Father for they know not what they do”. Or even commented; “go wash the mud out of your eyes”, “may you never bear fruit again”. Short and powerful!
- We pray, in confidence, with the faith of Jesus; “Rise up”, “Cancer, I curse you from the root in Jesus name.”, “Headache be gone”, “I speak shalom over my body.”, “Pain leave now!”, “Thank you Jesus for making me as you are on this earth”, “Fear be gone!” (fear is a spirit), “We bless you and give you thanks and praise father.” Remembering joy and peace come in believing.

A wonderful Pastor stated: “Jesus never taught on un-answered prayers because He never had any”. If we are as Jesus is in this world, and we have been given His Spirit, the same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead, and we have been given a counselor to guide us in all things, should the same be true for us?

Hopefully, this equation will bring some joy and insight to the gifts God has already given us, by the power that is already working within us, as we are transformed through knowledge and belief in His true Word. We pray you will grow quickly in the understanding of God’s love for you and develop a brotherly relationship with Jesus and the Holy Spirit in your daily walk with them. Forget not all His blessings! My calculation is He has probably answered your prayers already....

Grace and Peace to you!