

To Jini, my beloved. Thank you for turning me to Christ.

Ask and it will be given to you;

Seek and you will find;

Knock and the door will be opened to you.

Matthew 7:7

He came to His hometown and began teaching them, so that they were astonished, and said, "Where did this man get this wisdom and these miraculous powers."

Matthew 13:54

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Introduction from Matthew

Dear Reader,

Welcome to this special book, crafted to illuminate the incredible *power of prayer*. Within these pages, I share the remarkable experiences and lessons I've gained from my own prayers and the teachings God has graciously bestowed upon me. This book is like a heartfelt prayer from me to you, inspired by the unfolding wisdom and love of God.

Interestingly, my name means "gift from God," and indeed, this book is the greatest gift I've ever received.

As you journey through the story of the Little Prayer Warrior, I urge you to embrace the central teachings of *Matthew 7:7—ask*, seek, and knock. Throughout my spiritual journey, I've harbored a profound yearning to understand God, a yearning that blossomed fully upon finding Christ. Writing this book not only deepened my connection to Him, but transformed my life in ways that defy comprehension.

To parents reading this with their children, I believe there is wisdom here for <u>ALL ages</u>. Whether young or old, we are all God's children, seeking a closer connection with Him through prayer.

May this story resonate in your heart and fill you with the Holy Spirit. The spirit of the Little Prayer Warrior resides in EACH of us. Every prayer shared, every expression of faith, strengthens our connection and furthers God's work on Earth. Together, we form God's army, united in spreading the light and truth of Jesus Christ.

With boundless love and gratitude in Jesus Christ's name,

Matthew

Chapter 1

"The Gift of Forgiveness"

Once upon a time in a cozy town, there lived a young boy named Matthew and his wise Grandpa Bob. Matthew faced challenges with school, and his heart ached for his Grandma Grace, who was unwell. Frustrated by these challenges, Matthew started to act out disobediently at home and in school.

One night Grandpa Bob received a call from Matthew's mother, and it wasn't about good news. Matthew had gotten into a heated argument with her, disobeying orders when she asked him to stop playing video games and go to bed. Grandpa Bob, surprised by Matthew's behavior, knew it was time for a serious talk.

Sitting Matthew down on the couch, Grandpa Bob began, "So, I heard you had a tough night with your mom."

Matthew nodded, a heavy feeling settling in his chest.

"Do you know it's a sin to disobey and talk back to your parents?" Grandpa Bob asked.

Matthew, deeply ashamed, looked puzzled. "What's a sin, Grandpa?"

Grandpa Bob smiled kindly. "A sin is like doing something that goes against what God wants us to do. It's not being kind or doing things we know we shouldn't. They especially happen when we are angry."

Matthew's eyes widened as he absorbed this new concept.

Grandpa Bob continued, "However, the good news is that we can always ask God for forgiveness and learn from our mistakes. Do you know that God always listens and forgives?" As Matthew processed this information, he felt a sense of remorse for his actions.

"Forgiveness," Grandpa Bob continued, "is like having a clean slate, it's a great GIFT, but it doesn't mean you can keep doing the same things over and over. Do you understand?"

Matthew nodded his head slowly.

Grandpa Bob explained further, "God is always teaching lessons. You need to respect your parents and not get angry or upset when they tell you to do something. Anger is the tool of the devil."

"I don't want to upset my mom anymore," pleaded Matthew remorsefully.

Grandpa Bob guided Matthew to bow his head in prayer and ask God for forgiveness and protection. Almost instantly, Matthew felt a weight lifting off his shoulders.

Encouraged by Grandpa Bob, Matthew went over to his mother and apologized for his behavior the night before.

Matthew's mother looked at him with tears in her eyes and then bent down to hug him. The atmosphere at home immediately lightened, and the forgiveness granted by God and his mother brought a sense of peace.

Grandpa Bob then shared another lesson with Matthew about a different kind of game—one played in real life. "I know how much you love video games, Matthew. The real game, however, is helping people and spreading the word of God. And you can do that through prayer. This game is much more fun."

Grandpa Bob promised to show Matthew this new "game", the power of prayer, over the next few days. Matthew went to bed that night thinking about God, how kind and loving he was, and how great a gift forgiveness is. He promised God that he would be a better child, that he would listen to his parents and grandparents more, and that he would try hard not to sin.

Chapter 2

"The Armor of God"

The next day Matthew went over to Grandpa Bob's house. Grandpa Bob was living alone because Grandma Grace was still undergoing tests at the hospital. Grandpa Bob, a prayer warrior with a heart full of love, decided it was time to share a special gift with Matthew.

"Come, my Little Prayer Warrior," Grandpa Bob said with a twinkle in his eye. "Let me teach you the ancient art of prayer using the Armor of God."

Grandpa Bob brought Matthew over to a big chest in his bedroom and opened it. To Matthew's surprise, there was just a bible inside.

"But that's just a bible!" Matthew shouted out, "Where's the armor?"

Grandpa Bob smiled back with a twinkle in his eye. "Oh, there's more than a bible in there. Look closer. It's all in the Word."

Grandpa Bob reached into the chest, carefully taking the bible out. He then flipped its pages to a part of the bible unfamiliar to Matthew - *The Book of Ephesians*.

Instantly, a helmet materialized in Grandpa Bob's hands. "This, Matthew, is the Helmet of Salvation." Matthew stared at his grandfather with wide-eyed wonder. "I see it!" he said.

"Of course, you do! You're using the *Spirit of Revelation*! It is one of the greatest gifts from God."

Grandpa Bob gently placed the helmet on Matthew's head and explained its purpose. "This helmet guards your thoughts, Matthew, keeping them pure and full of hope. It's like having a protective shield around your mind."

"Wow," said Matthew.

"Now, visualize this," Grandpa Bob said. "Picture a sword, but not one that is used as a weapon for harm but as a tool to cut through fears and worries."

A sword suddenly appeared in Grandpa Bob's hand. "This, Matthew, is the Sword of Spirit. It lets the words of God guide you and give you strength."

Grandpa Bob handed the sword to Matthew, who then proudly waved it in the air.

"Now, this next piece of God's Armor is very important. Envision a sturdy shield ready to block any doubts or fears that may try to sneak in. Your faith in God acts as this powerful shield, protecting you."

Instantly, The Shield of Faith materialized in Matthew's other hand. He held it up to his heart, signifying to his Grandfather that he was now protected.

"Look at you, Matthew. You're turning into a real prayer warrior!" Grandpa Bob said proudly. He then reached into the chest and pulled out two more items.

"This is the Breastplate of Righteousness. It's like a suit of armor for your heart, protecting your heart with the love and goodness of God."

"So cool." responded Matthew as he admired it.

"And this is the Loins Girt About with Truth." Grandpa Bob held up a glistening golden belt. "I know it's a funny name but think of this as a sturdy belt, holding everything together. It represents living a life based on truth, honesty, and integrity. It's the foundation of your spiritual strength."

Grandpa Bob carefully wrapped the Loins Girt of Truth around Matthew's waist and placed the Breastplate of Righteousness over Matthew's chest.

Lastly, Grandpa Bob drew attention to the feet. "Now I want you to picture your feet covered in shoes of peace, Matthew. Wherever you go, let peace guide your steps. This peace is like a soothing balm, calming the storms around you." Grandpa Bob then placed these special shoes on Matthew's feet.

Matthew began strutting around the room with his new suit of armor on.

"Now, Matthew," Grandpa Bob continued, "the real power lies in asking for prayers in Jesus' name. It's like unlocking a secret door to heaven. Come let's pray now."

Together, they knelt in prayer, and Grandpa Bob showed Matthew how to ask for blessings and protection in Jesus' name. "When we pray in Jesus' name, it's like having a direct line to God," Grandpa Bob explained with a smile.

As they prayed, Grandpa Bob shared stories of faith and the miracles of Jesus, filling Matthew's heart with hope. "You can ask for prayers not just for yourself but for others too. There's so many types of prayers. It's a gift of love we can give to those in need."

"Can we pray for Grandma Grace, Grandpa?"

"That's a wonderful idea," responded Grandpa Bob with tears in his eyes. "I pray for her every day."

Matthew, now a Little Prayer Warrior in training, took his new suit of armor home and began following his grandfather's lead. He vowed to be a better student at school, to work on his grades and to pray for Grandma Grace. He went to bed that night with a big smile on his face. God is so good he thought as he drifted into a deep and peaceful sleep.

Chapter 3

"Ask, Seek, Knock"

n class the next day, Matthew began whispering prayers, imagining himself wearing his invisible Armor of God. His heart felt lighter, and all his friends—even the teacher—noticed the change in his demeanor.

"Matthew, I love your smile today!" exclaimed Mrs. Sanders. "Did you have a good weekend?"

"I did!" responded Matthew jubilantly. "My grandpa Bob showed me how to be a prayer warrior. He gave me the Armor of God!"

The children were taken aback by Matthew.

"I don't see any armor on you," his friend Evan said incredulously.

"Of course you don't, it's invisible," Matthew replied matter-of-factly.

Many in the class started to snicker. Matthew's face flushed red, but he remained undeterred and explained what his grandpa had taught him about the Armor of God from yesterday.

"I thought it was weird too when my grandpa gave it to me," He explained, "but I swear it's real. It's from the Bible!"

Mrs. Sanders, although a devout Christian, became concerned that her precocious class was beginning to touch on a rather controversial subject matter.

"Now Matthew, I love your new spiritual passions. However, this is a public school, and we have to be respectful of everyone's beliefs. I suggest you share more at your church's Sunday School."

Matthew slunk back into his chair. Grandpa Bob had warned him that standing in the truth and light of Jesus would be met with resistance. Still, he felt that new sense of peace and joy inside him, and he knew that it came from the Armor of God he was wearing even if no one could see it. He had faith that one day they would.

As the weeks passed, Matthew continued to transform with his invisible Armor of God. His grades improved, and many of his friends began asking him more questions: How did the Armor of God work? Who was Jesus? Do you really get superpowers from

praying and reading the bible? Matthew's friends were all curious and wanted to become little prayer warriors too. Matthew knew he couldn't answer the questions as well as Grandpa Bob, so he invited them over to Grandpa Bob and Grandma Grace's house one day to meet the wise sage.

Grandpa Bob warmly greeted all the new little prayer warriors in training with open arms and led them to his special chest which contained his Bible. Just as he did with Matthew, Grandpa Bob equipped each child with the Armor of God, explaining each piece very carefully. The children were overcome with the Holy Spirit as they started to transform into Little Prayer Warriors themselves. Grandpa Bob then started turning the pages in his Bible.

"Children, gather around. I want to share a special verse with you now. It's from the Book of Matthew."

"That's my name, Grandpa!" exclaimed Matthew.

"Indeed, it is." Grandpa Bob winked at his bright grandson, "You share the name of one of the greatest disciples of Jesus, Matthew the tax collector. Did you know he wrote an entire book about his time as a disciple of Jesus?"

The children looked on with eager eyes as Grandpa Bob flipped to the chapter and verse he was looking for. His finger scrolled down to a 7 and then another 7.

"This, children, is *Matthew 7:7,*" as he pointed to the verse on the delicate and worn page of his trusty bible. "Do any of you know this verse?"

The little prayer warriors in training all shook their heads blankly.

"It is one of the most famous verses in scripture," Grandpa Bob explained. He then powerfully delivered the verse with his passionate and resounding voice.

"Ask and it will be given to you. Seek and you will find. Knock and the door will be opened to you."

The Holy Spirit moved through the room. The children felt it down their spines.

Matthew curiously asked, "I can ask for anything, and it will be given to me?"

Matthew's friend Evan chimed in, "What are we supposed to seek and find?"

"Ahhh," Grandpa Bob responded, "These are good questions! You are ASKING, the first principle of Matthew 7:7. I will teach you all the secrets of *Matthew 7:7* over the next few weeks. *Asking, Seeking, and Knocking are some of the most important KEYS to building a relationship with God*. There's a lot to go over in this special book."

The children's curiosity was piqued. They were all hungry to dive into the Word more.

"Before I tell you more, let's pray for some guidance, wisdom, and understanding on how to use our new Armor of God," instructed Grandpa Bob.

Grandpa Bob and the children knelt down on one knee and began praying in a powerful embrace of the Holy Spirit. As Grandpa Bob guided the group in prayer, a beam of light came through the window, casting the group in a golden glow. They all felt the warmth of the sun on their faces as their prayers reverberated to heaven. Matthew added a prayer for Grandma Grace in the hospital. Grandpa Bob smiled.

God was listening....