



# THE INSIDE RUNNING

Our spiritual life is designed to be dynamic, vivid and full of colour, not grey and mediocre!

I'm convinced that we are far more influenced by culture than we realise. Today, New Zealand has a very secular and humanistic veneer. Unless we are radically counter-cultural, this atmosphere can sap our faith.

In most developing countries, the spiritual dimension is extremely real to people – for both evil and good. I learned my most valuable lesson on prayer in Nigeria. When people were prayed for, there was usually no discernible change in their symptoms, yet they praised God for their healing and in faith stepped out, believing for it. A few days later they could testify of incredible miracles.

Mark Beale's testimony of how prayer won his life-and-death battle clearly documents the power of prayer, and what he felt, even while unconscious. That story really grabs me and energises my faith!

We don't have to strive to achieve spiritual results. The Holy Spirit is with us to help us. But we absolutely must engage in the battle. How do we respond to challenges? Frequent short prayer conversations help keep us engaged and receptive to the promptings of God and move our hearts closer to His will.

Men, this is one relationship we really must do well!

*John*



John Subritzky

# The Power of Prayer

by Brian France

Recently I read a book about some of the great men and women of God called "God's Generals" by Roberts Liardon. It told of people with great healing ministries, the likes of Kathryn Kuhlman, John G. Lake, and Smith Wigglesworth. What impressed me was the spiritual authority these Christians had, for through their prayers many miracles of healing occurred - everything from the lame walking to the blind seeing and much more besides. There came a time in my life when I really needed someone to exercise spiritual authority to enable a miracle of healing to happen for me.

I spent 15 years in the military and served in Northern Ireland as a platoon commander during the sectarian violence of the 1970s that became known as "The Troubles." A terrorist bomb detonated a metre behind me. The blast removed my ear drums, destroying my hearing and rendering me profoundly deaf. I was subsequently told I would live the rest of my life in this condition, "so get used to it." I was then invalidated out of the RAF Regiment. Three

years later I was ministered to by a group of Christians who prayed with such authority that God restored my hearing. It changed my life. I could again hear what people were saying, enter into conversations, and went from being unemployable to working again.

When I thought about the spiritual authority I had experienced, I recalled the biblical account of the Roman centurion who came to Jesus and pleaded with Him to heal his paralysed servant. The centurion recognised Jesus' spiritual authority and said that all Jesus had to do was to speak the word and his servant would be healed. The centurion understood how authority worked, because as a Roman officer he had authority only because he was submitted to the authority of his more senior officers, and ultimately to Caesar. So when he gave a soldier an order it was as though Caesar himself had spoken.

Jesus said that all authority in heaven and earth had been given unto Him and throughout His ministry He exercised >





# How Prayer Won the Battle

by Mark Beale

On 14 March last year I was rushed into Middlemore Hospital with a heart rate of 220. It was diagnosed that I needed to have an aortic valve replacement. During the week of testing, I felt the Lord say to me that I was to read the letter of Paul to the Ephesians each day.

I met with the surgeon and was given the choice of a mechanical valve or a tissue valve. After prayer I felt that I should have a tissue valve, a decision that later was to prove critical.

The surgery was successful and I recovered quickly. Five days after surgery I felt very ill and passed out while eating lunch. A day later I lost consciousness and was rushed into surgery as I had bleeding around the heart. Because of this I was taken off Warfarin, a drug that is essential if one has a mechanical valve but not essential for a tissue valve. Praise God that I had a tissue valve.

During this surgery I was critically ill and had to be on life support for several days. During this time of unconsciousness I found myself in a spiritual battle. I could see evil spirits who were trying to entice me into following them, which would have meant certain physical and spiritual death. This was an intense battle as I kept saying to them that I belonged to Christ and

not to them. This battle was exhausting and at times I felt so tired it would have been easy to give up.

Also during this time I could feel people praying for me; I actually felt their prayers and emotions. These prayers gave me strength and enabled me to win the battle for both my physical body and my soul. Several days later some visitors from the church told me that during the night that I had lost consciousness and was taken back into the operating theatre, they had a prayer meeting in the church and as they were praying for me one of the people praying felt that this was a spiritual battle and they should pray against evil spirits. While unconscious, a dear friend came to visit me and also felt led to pray against evil forces. The letter of Paul to the Ephesians tells us, *"For it is not against human enemies that we have to struggle, but against the sovereignties and the powers who originate the darkness in this world."* Eph 6:12

I am eternally grateful to all who prayed for me because your prayers affected me deeply even though I was unconscious; your prayers gave me strength and courage to overcome the evil that was trying to take me out. It was your prayers that helped a battle to be won. Remember when you are praying for another, even if it is for healing, you are assisting in the eternal work of our Lord Jesus Christ against all that is contrary to the will of God.



> that authority with amazing results. A great number of healings took place, demons were cast out and the dead rose to life. The blind saw, the lame walked and sanity was restored as Jesus prayed and put His authority into action in the lives of people around Him.

As Christians, we are immensely privileged in that Jesus has given us the authority that He had. If we are truly submitted to

Him, then His authority flows through us, empowering our prayers and changing lives - in just the same way that Caesar's authority flowed to the centurion.

Jesus said, *"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also..."* John 14:12

Not only that, Jesus also gives us the authority to do those things by giving us the keys to the kingdom of heaven, *"And*

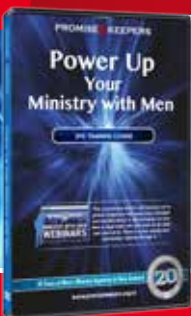
*I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."* Matt 16:19

Are you still asking God to act when He has given you the authority to command? Start praying with authority and so develop and grow in Christ Jesus. Exercise the authority the Lord has given you and be prepared to be astounded by what the Lord will do through you.

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