

Duewel, Wesley L.

Mighty Prevailing Prayer: Experiencing the Power of Answered Prayer

32. Carrying a Prayer Burden (Level Five: Prayer Burden)

This chapter describes the fifth and most intense level of prevailing prayer: interceding under a prayer burden. A prayer burden is not something you work up; it is the Holy Spirit pressing a real need onto your heart and calling you to intercede until God answers. The chapter sorts these burdens into five types and then describes what a genuine burden looks like.

Key takeaways

- A prayer burden is Spirit-given, not natural sympathy or worked-up emotion. It joins your prayer to Christ's ongoing intercession.
- Five varieties: (1) instant emergency burden — a sudden urgent call, pray at once; (2) gradually deepening burden — a need that grows into a regular assignment; (3) deepening concern that erupts into an instant burden; (4) long-term burden — carried for years (missions, a person's salvation); (5) long-term burdens that call for whole movements of prayer.

- You may never learn why you were called to pray, and that's fine — faithfulness matters, not explanation. Many accounts show the burden struck at the exact hour of the real crisis (Sanders in bandit country, the ship dodging a mine, DeShazer shot down as his mother prayed).
- A real burden is spiritual, God-given, deeply personal, kept mostly in secret, and may move you to tears, loss of appetite, or sleep.
- The burden makes you responsible. Pray it through until God lifts it and gives peace. If you don't know how to pray, pray 'Your will be done,' plead Jesus' name and blood, and hold on.
- Sobering closing warning: victories may be lost forever when believers fail to answer a burden God tried to give them.

Passages worth keeping

“It is a burden born in the heart of God... and it is conveyed to you by the Spirit's guidance and touch.”

Defines the burden's true source — God, not human emotion.

“Will we be shocked in eternity at the victories that were not won... because we or someone else were not faithful to the prayer burden God tried to give us?”

The chapter's closing charge to take burdens seriously.

How it connects

The burden is framed as partnership: as Jesus intercedes on heaven's throne (the priestly theme), the Spirit draws you into that same intercession on earth.

Scripture referenced

- **1 Peter 2:5, 9** -- Believers as a royal priesthood who intercede on earth
- **Revelation 1:6** -- Christians made priests to God
- **Nehemiah 2:2-3** -- Example of a burden so heavy others could see it
- **Matthew 6:16-18** -- Keep the burden private unless specially led to share
- **Psalms 56:8** -- God notices and values sincere tears in prayer
- **2 Kings 20:5** -- God is moved by tears (Hezekiah)