



## CHAPTER 4

### Vital Prayer

By Paul D. Refior  
("Rafe")

Copyright 1994, 1998 and 2005

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording or otherwise, without the prior permission of Paul D. Refior, except as provided by USA copyright law.

Cover design: Paul D. Refior ("Rafe")

Third Printing: 2005

Printed in the United States of America

All Scripture quotations taken from the HOLY BIBLE; NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®. NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan Publishing House.

**VITAL PRAYER**

Do you pray for your spouse every day? I submit that you cannot say that you are doing all you need to do to enhance your marriage if you are not committed to praying for your spouse every day and actually doing so. The purpose of this book is not to discuss prayer in itself (I do direct your attention to Appendix F (page 184) which outlines my prayer notebook). I will say, however, that one of the greatest mysteries in the life of a Christian is that the all-sufficient, all-powerful God who created you and me has made a way for us to communicate with Him, and that He desires that we do so. On top of that wonder, add the efficacy of prayer. The God who invites us to exercise the family privilege of making our requests known to our heavenly Father, is the very God who listens and answers prayer. Fantastic and wonderful, isn't it?

We are very limited, but God is unlimited. There is so much that we do not know, but God knows everything. We can only be in one place at a time, but God is everywhere at once. You cannot know every inner thought of your spouse, but God knows every need, desire, feeling and thought. There are so many things that are not in our control. There are countless things that are "impossible" from a human standpoint. Yet the Lord himself stated that, "with God all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26; and see Appendix G listing some of the Characteristics of God, page 187).

I mention these things as a foundation to introduce the necessity for and efficacy of praying for your spouse. Another mystery that has been revealed to me through years of praying is that persistent, fervent prayer for another person develops an increasing capacity of the pray-er to better understand how to effectively pray for that person, and it gives a heightened sensitivity to and ability to understand the visions, dreams and needs that well up from the inside of that other person. When one meets that person at the throne of grace, it is a very REAL encounter and it is something God uses to draw the pray-er closer to that person in mind and heart.

These mysterious dynamics about intercessory prayer are the most true with respect to husbands and wives. The best start of a day in the relationship is to pray for your spouse. Focusing on the needs and spiritual growth of your spouse helps set a tone for the day. As your relationship with your spouse deepens there will be an ever increasing ability to effectively pray for your spouse. By taking the needs and benefits for your spouse to the Lord, you are seeking the greatest and highest assistance possible for your spouse.

Pray? You say, "Of course I should pray for my spouse." Right. But are you doing so? Failure in this area is no less than neglect. You are not really serious about having a happy and God-honoring marriage if you are not praying for your spouse.

I have discussed praying **for** your spouse. The other significant part is praying **with** your spouse. The most intimate spiritual act is prayer. Your most intimate relationship is with your spouse. By praying together the Lord has fertile ground to beautifully blend your dreams, visions, plans and hopes. When you are praying together you are united in heart and spirit before the Lord. An aspect of "praying without ceasing" is the constant awareness of the Lord's presence, His ability to help, and the constant availability of God to hear and answer prayers.

## **It's Your CHOICE – Vital Prayer**

One of the beautiful aspects of the Christian marriage that is not (and cannot be) a part of a non-Christian marriage, is the spiritual dimension. You and your spouse can jointly approach your Maker about matters of concern. Along with your recognition of mutual dependence between you and your spouse is the recognition that the two of you are fully dependent on the Lord day-by-day. Praying together is effective and necessary. As a wonderful byproduct, praying together is a relationship enhancer and a beautiful reminder of the unity that exists between God, the husband, and the wife.

Click [HERE](#) to go to Appendix F, “Prayer Notebook Outline”