

The Power of a
PRAYING[®]
Grandparent

**STORMIE
OMARTIAN**



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THE POWER OF A PRAYING® GRANDPARENT

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Contents

The Lifelong Gift of a Praying Grandparent 9

SECTION ONE

Praying for Your Grandchildren's Understanding of Godly Love and Relationships

1. Lord, Enable Me to Clearly Express Love
for Each of My Grandchildren 23
2. Lord, Grow Love in My Grandchildren's
Parents for Their Children and Each Other . . . 37
3. Lord, Help My Grandchildren Understand
How Much You Love Them. 51
4. Lord, Instruct My Grandchildren to Honor
Their Father and Mother 65
5. Lord, Give Each of My Grandchildren a
Heart That Is Quick to Forgive 73
6. Lord, Teach My Grandchildren Ways to
Show Their Love for You 83

7. Lord, Reveal to My Grandchildren How
to Love Others the Way You Do 93

SECTION TWO

Praying for Your Grandchildren's Safety and Protection

8. Lord, Teach Me to See the Inheritance
I Leave as a Praying Grandparent. 103
9. Lord, Help My Grandchildren's Parents
to Raise Them Your Way 115
10. Lord, Protect My Grandchildren from
Any Danger or Threat 127
11. Lord, Heal My Grandchildren from
Every Disease and Infirmity 137
12. Lord, Give My Grandchildren Good and
Wise Doctors 149
13. Lord, Keep My Grandchildren Far from
the Harm of Evil People 161
14. Lord, Let No Weapon Prosper That Is
Formed Against My Grandchildren 171

SECTION THREE
Praying for Your Grandchildren's
Spiritual Growth and Development

15. Lord, Enable Me to Understand What
My Grandchildren Face in This World. 183
16. Lord, Lead My Grandchildren's Parents
into a Close Relationship with You 193
17. Lord, Draw My Grandchildren to Know
You Better Every Day. 205
18. Lord, Teach My Grandchildren to Resist
Rebellion in Themselves. 215
19. Lord, Keep My Grandchildren from
Straying into Enemy Territory 225
20. Lord, Cause My Grandchildren to
Be Attracted to Godly Friends 237
21. Lord, Give My Grandchildren Godly
Wisdom and Understanding 245

SECTION FOUR
Praying for Your Grandchildren's
Provision and Well-Being

22. Lord, Help Me to Be a Godly Role Model
 for My Grandchildren 259
23. Lord, Give the Parents of My Grandchildren
 the Ability to Provide Well for Their Family . . 273
24. Lord, Enable My Grandchildren to
 Understand Who You Made Them to Be 283
25. Lord, Reveal to My Grandchildren
 Their Gifts and Calling 293
26. Lord, Keep Each Grandchild's Heart from
 Turning Toward the World's Idols 303
27. Lord, Teach My Grandchildren How to
 Bear Good Fruit. 313
28. Lord, Grow My Grandchildren's Faith to
 Believe That All Things Are Possible with You . 323

The Lifelong Gift of a Praying Grandparent

An amazing thing happens in your heart when you see your grandchild for the first time. It's difficult to explain. Though it's different from having your own children, the experience is what every grandparent has told you for years that it would be. Nothing else is quite like it. There is an instant and deep connection. There is unconditional love that is unimaginable before that moment. It is profoundly special. Uniquely moving. And irrevocably life altering.

This doesn't minimize the unconditional love we felt for our own children or the moving and life-altering experience we have when they come

into our life. But, as grandparents, we don't have the major physical and emotional journey of getting our grandchildren here. They are gifts that are laid in our laps—often literally. That's not to say we aren't constantly prayerful and concerned for the safety and health of our daughter or daughter-in-law—the one who carries her precious cargo to what we pray is perfect development. We also pray for our son or son-in-law to be a good support for his wife, an excellent provider, and a great father for his children—which can seem quite overwhelming to most new fathers who are in touch with the reality of all that.

I remember when Michael and I first became parents. The process engulfed us. Whether it was self-doubt about our ability to be good parents, or we feared what could happen to our child, or we felt unprepared, the process was our focus. No matter how many books I read on child rearing or classes I took on what to do after our child was born, the journey consumed me. And that is true for most people—whether the child was theirs biologically, or by adoption, or through marriage.

The road to the child's arrival could seem scary, and there were no guarantees.

Our grown children may have many of those same fears too.

Besides all this, the process of bringing forth and raising children is exhausting. The sleep factor—or lack thereof—complicates things when parents are trying not to neglect their spouse and marriage. This can seem like an overwhelming task. If one spouse is not even in the picture—for whatever reason—and the parent raising the child is a single mom or dad, the worry factor goes up greatly. A single mom or dad may be the only one in charge of the rent, mortgage, food, clothing, medical care, schooling, and every other need of the child or children. Without having the emotional support of someone to share the duties of being a good parent, the responsibility can seem impossible.

As grandparents, we usually don't fully carry the same burdens the way a parent does, although these things concern us greatly. That is, unless the child is not only laid in our lap, but also the total

responsibility for our grandchild is laid entirely on our shoulders because the parent or parents cannot care for their daughter or son. Many grandparents experience that.

Whatever your situation, consider yourself blessed to have a precious grandchild. So many people are grieved because they will never have one, or the one they had is no longer in their lives. Thank God every day that you have the privilege and the power in prayer of affecting your grandchildren's lives in ways you may not even imagine.

The Gift of a Praying “Gramma” or “Grampa”

Grandchildren are a gift from God to you. And your prayers are a gift to them that can touch them for a lifetime—even after you are no longer around to see all of the good results. God has an important ministry for you to your grandchild or grandchildren—not only in word and deed, but also in prayer.

Personally, I didn't have a praying mother or father—at least, not to my knowledge. But I did

have one praying grandmother. I didn't realize this for years because I only saw her twice in my life—once when I was about six, and another time when I was around twelve. She was my father's mother, and she seemed to be a kind, gentle, and caring person.

It was later in my life, after I was married and had two children of my own, that my severely mentally ill mother died of cancer at the age of 64, and we asked my dad to come live with us. He was in his mid-seventies at the time, and we gave him an entire wing of our house that allowed him three rooms to himself plus a small parlor, all at the front of the house where he could have privacy and yet be with the rest of the family whenever he wanted. Every day he sat in the parlor watching for the children to come home from school. They were in grade school and high school during that time, and they loved to sit with him and hear him tell stories about his life. He'd had so many near-death experiences, such as being struck by lightning *twice*, hit by a train, shot with a gun, falling into a ravine on horseback, and losing control of

his truck on an icy mountain road and going over the side of the mountain—just to name a few. It was amazing to think that he lived to be 93 and died quietly in his own bed as he slept.

I, too, had escaped death so many times in my life—including pneumonia when I was a baby and diphtheria when I was about six, for starters. There would be more perilous instances to come. After I received the Lord at 28 and walked with Him for two decades, I saw that my heavenly Father had His hand on me all along. One day in prayer, I asked God who had been praying for me because I realized at that point someone must have been. And I could think of no one on my mother's side. Her mother—my maternal grandmother—died in childbirth when my mother was 11. And my own mother was too mentally ill all of my life.

I asked my father about *his* mother, and I discovered that she was a faithful, godly woman of prayer. So faithful to God was she that every Sunday morning she walked with her children a very long way—even in freezing snow—across fields and down country roads to church. There was

no such thing as children's church there, so my father sat on hard wooden pews for four hours in the morning, four more hours in the evening, and then again on Wednesday night as well. He said that his father never went to church, nor did he *take* them to church. So once my dad became an adult, he swore he would never enter a church again. And except for a funeral and a wedding, as far as I know he never did.

In answer to my prayer, God showed me that it was my father's mother who prayed for her eight children and her many grandchildren, and that was the reason my dad and I escaped death so many times. Even though she died when I was only a teenager, I feel it was her prayers that continued to cover me in my life.

My dad was always a good grandfather to my children. He never prayed that I know of, but when I asked him openly if he believed in God and that Jesus was the Son of God who died for us and rose again to give us eternal life with Him—because I wanted to be certain I would see my dad in heaven one day—he said emphatically, “Yes,

of course!” as if to say, “Who in their right mind wouldn’t believe that?”

That was good enough for me.

While he lived with us, he taught my daughter how to plant and grow a garden in our backyard, and they tended it every day. He taught my son how to play many games, and they played them every chance they got. Michael and I didn’t have time for some of the things he could do. He was the only grandparent my children ever knew well because their grandmothers both died of breast cancer, and my husband’s father lived far away and also died when they were young. But they were able to spend time with my father every day, and he and my children experienced a mutual and special love for one another.

A godly grandmother or grandfather is always welcome in a child’s life. But being a godly *praying* “Gramma” or “Grampa” is a gift you can deliberately give your grandchildren even if you don’t see them often. And if you don’t have a grandchild in your life *yet*, ask God to show you who needs

a spiritual “Gramma” or “Grampa.” There are so many who do.

I have had the joy of being a part of my grandchildren’s lives from the time they were born. And even before that—while they were growing in their mother’s womb—I prayed countless times daily for them to be healthy and perfectly formed. In fact, I was praying for my grandchildren even before my own children were married—well before I knew I would even have any.

You may have become a grandparent because one of your children married someone who already had a child. And that child may already have two sets of grandparents in their life. But you may not know whether the grandparents are praying. No matter what the circumstances are, your prayers are still a needed gift for that child.

A grandchild can never have too much prayer or too much love.

Not long after my book *The Power of a Praying Parent* came out in 1995 and had sold a few million copies, many people were asking me, “When

are you going to write *The Power of a Praying Grandparent?*” I told them that while I was certainly old enough to be a grandmother, my children weren’t doing *their* part. I was still praying about them finding the right person to marry, and I didn’t want to write about something I had never personally experienced. I chose to wait until I had the joy of being a grandmother before I wrote this book. Now that I have two precious grandchildren, I feel at liberty to write it.

This book is divided into *four important sections*—or areas of prayer—to help you easily find the prayer topic you want.

The first prayer in each section will be for you to pray for yourself as a grandparent. It will help you to understand how vitally important and long lasting your prayers are for each of your grandchildren. Even if you don’t see them often, your role in their lives is more far-reaching than you may realize.

The second prayer in each section will be for the parents of each grandchild. They face serious challenges coming at them from all angles, and they

desperately need your covering in prayer whether they realize it or not. In fact, one of the best ways you can pray for your grandchildren is to ask God to help their parents or stepparents to raise them well.

Following those first two prayers in each section will be five prayers for your grandchild or grandchildren. It doesn't matter if your grandchildren are small, teenagers, or adults. I guarantee they need your prayers.

I encourage you to not only pray alone as often as you can, but whenever possible, pray with others as well. There is power in praying together with one or two people about anything that concerns you. Jesus said, "*If two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them*" (Matthew 18:19-20). The powerful promise of God's presence when we pray with others is too great a gift to ignore.

I added the italics in these verses above, and I have added them in other Scriptures throughout

the book as well. So that I won't have to keep repeating the words "emphasis added," just know that when you see italics in Scripture, I have added them to bring special notice to certain words.

You can start praying from chapter 1 through to the end of chapter 28. Each chapter is short and includes a prayer and a page of Scriptures to back it up. Or you can pick and choose which section and chapter you feel is the most-needed area of prayer focus at that time for your grandchild.

Oh, and please do not take offense at my frequent use of the word "grandchildren" if you have one grandchild. It's just that the plural word keeps me from having to frequently use the words "he or she." Believe me, one precious grandchild is more than enough for you to have plenty to pray about.