How to Survive and Thrive in the Purging Before the Promised Land by Dr. Gary Greig

The most important steps the Lord has taught us for coming into His promises for us are:

1. Make the Lord and His presence your treasure before the promise comes.
2. Get filled with the Holy Spirit in worship.
3. Quiet yourself, forget about yourself, and think only of the Lord Jesus—center yourself on Him.
4. Confess all sins the Lord shows you.
5. Submit yourself and the circumstances to the Lord.
6. Die to self, die to fears and sinful desires, and die to the circumstances that threaten you.
7. Give thanks in everything and give thanks for everything.
8. Receive the life, peace and power of *"Christ in you, the hope of glory"* (Col. 1:27).
9. Then just listen to the Lord's voice, and obey what He says to do.

The key is to focus your thoughts and your mind's-eye on Jesus (see Heb. 3:1; 12:2) and His light surrounding you (see Heb. 1:3; Matt. 17:2-5; 1 John 1:5-7) and dispelling the darkness of the lies, the temptations, and the demons the enemy is sending against you. As you pray these prayers, don't focus on or think about the lies, the dark feelings, the enemy and get swallowed up in the darkness of the attack, but look at and think about Jesus, His truth, His radiant presence and light, and see His light and truth driving out the lies and darkness that are attacking you.

The Nine Prayer Steps Expanded:

1. The Lord and His presence are our treasure before the promise comes.

- Genesis 15:1 *"Do not be afraid Abram. I am your shield and your very great reward."* (God was speaking to Abram at about age 80, as he waited for God's promised miracle son. Abram had about 20 more

years to wait at this point until Isaac was born and the promise fulfilled, see Genesis 12:4 and 17:24-25)

- Job 22:25 *"Then the Almighty will be your gold, the choicest silver for you."*
- Psalm 16:5-8 [literal Hebrew] *"Lord, You are my food portion and my cup; you are holding my lot securely….I will praise the Lord who counsels me; even at night my heart instructs me; I set the Lord always before me; because He is at my right hand I will not be shaken."*
- Psalm 73:26 *"God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever."*
- Psalm 119:57 *"You are my portion, O Lord, as I promise to obey your words."*
- John 4:34 *"'My food,' Jesus said, 'is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to finish His work.'"*
- Psalm 142:5 *"You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living."*
- Psalm 37:4 *"Delight yourself in the Lord* [Heb. "treasure unto yourself the Lord"] *and He will give you the desires of your heart."*
- Psalm 63:3 *"Your love is better than life."*
- Isaiah 58:14 *"Then you will treasure unto yourself the Lord, and I will cause you to ride on the heights of the land, and to feast on the inheritance of your father Jacob."*

Pray: *Lord, I thank You that You are my shield protecting me and my very great reward. You are my treasure, O Lord. Your presence, Your Spirit is the source of my life and all that I need (2 Pet. 1:3). Thank You that it is You that brings me all the energy I need, all the money and provision I need, all the protection I need, all the wisdom and skill I need, all the friendship and fellowship I need.*

Lord, I thank You that You are my food portion and my cup, that as I obey You, I feed off Your presence and drink of Your Spirit, so that Your Spirit energizes me like food and drink (John 4:34; Ps. 119:57; Ps. 16:5). Help me be jealous for Your presence, O Lord, and to hate everything that would compete with Your presence in my life. Thank You that when I put You first in my life, You will give me new strength, You will provide my needs and guide and protect me, and You will bring me into Your promises for me in Your time.

2. Get filled with the Holy Spirit (see Eph. 5:18); worship the Lord and through praise and worship ask the Holy Spirit to fill you up.

John 7:37-38 *"On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, 'If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. Whoever believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his belly shall flow streams of living water.'"*

A. Put your hand on your stomach as you spiritually **drink of and breathe in the Holy Spirit's presence**. It corresponds to the "belly" mentioned in John 7:38 (Greek *koilia* "belly, stomach") as a picture of your innermost being and it will help you cooperate with the flow of the Holy Spirit from your innermost being to fill your whole body, soul, spirit, mind, and emotions.

B. **Be Thirsty** — Tell the Lord you are thirsty for His Spirit to fill you and renew your spirit, soul, and body (see Ps. 42:1). Pray: *Lord Jesus, I am thirsty for Your Presence and Your Spirit to fill my spirit, soul and body, my mind and my emotions to overflowing (see Ps. 42:2; 63:1). Lord Jesus, You are my portion and my cup (see Ps. 16:5); You are my shield and my very great reward (see Gen. 15:1); Your presence is my gold and choicest silver (see Job 22:25); I treasure You and Your presence (see Ps. 37:4); I love You more than money, more than the praise of people, more than anything else in life.*

C. **Come to Jesus' Presence** — Fix your mind's-eye on Jesus ("fixing our eyes on Jesus" — Heb. 12:2) and picture yourself stepping into the radiance of His presence (Jesus is "the radiance of God's glory" — Heb. 1:3). Pray: *Jesus, I come into the radiance, the glory, and the light of Your presence; I need You and Your Spirit more than the air I breathe.*

D. **Drink of Jesus and Breathe/Drink in His Holy Spirit** through your faith and desire. Pray: *Lord Jesus, by my faith in You and my desire for You I now drink of You and Your Holy Spirit into my spirit, soul and body, and I thank You that Your Spirit is now filling my spirit, soul and body to overflowing. I drink and breathe You into myself, Holy Spirit.* (Remember Jesus breathed on the disciples for them to receive the Holy Spirit in John 20:22, suggesting that we can breathe the Holy Spirit in as an act of receiving His daily filling of us.)

E. **Believe and Depend on Jesus** for His Holy Spirit to flow and break the yoke of every attack and burden. Pray: *Lord, I am depending on You to cause rivers of Your Holy Spirit to flow within me now. Jesus, I drink of Your Spirit; Come, Holy Spirit! Come, Holy Spirit, rest on me and on us! Holy Spirit, I breathe in Your peace, I breathe in Your joy, I breathe in Your anointing of faith, I breathe in Your patience, I breathe in Your purity, I breathe in Your quiet strength and power.*

3. Quiet yourself, forget about yourself and think only of the Lord Jesus—center yourself on Him.

Isaiah 30:15 *“In repentance and rest is your salvation; in quietness and trust is your strength.”*

Pray: *Lord Jesus, I still and quiet my own mind and spirit now to focus on You, Your presence and power in me and around me. Help me turn my mind fully on You, Lord Jesus. I choose to forget my issues and leave them all at Your feet so that I can worship You. Thank You for Your life and death, Your blood that releases me from all my sins, and from all evil, and from all the enemy’s power.*

I receive Your strength and power from which all life comes, and which quells every storm around me and in me. Jesus, I praise You for Your holiness, for Your glory and radiance shining around me and in me, for Your ever-burning light and life filling me now by Your Holy Spirit. Jesus, I praise You for Your mercy and Your purity and Your power to heal me and to bring me and my circumstances under Your control and into Your path for my life.

4. Confess all sins the Lord shows you that may have opened a door to the enemy and given him a foothold to attack you (see Eph. 4:27).

> *God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness* (1 John 1:5-9).

Pray: *Lord, please show me where I have grieved You in any way. I confess...* (specify the sins the Lord shows you). *Lord Jesus, I receive the forgiveness of Your blood covering my sin, covering me, and covering all that belongs to me.*

5. Submit yourself and your circumstances to the Lord; put all on the altar before Him, and release all your control to the Lord.

> *Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded* (James 4:7-8).

Pray: *Lord Jesus, I thank You that You are a God of order and a God of peace (1 Cor. 14:33; Rom. 16:20). By faith I receive and I breathe in Your order and peace, Holy Spirit, and Your power and life to fill me and my circumstances. I stay my mind and lean it upon You, Lord Jesus, depending on You for protection and strength in all things (Isa. 26:3).*

I praise You, Lord Jesus, that You are an ever-present help when I am in trouble (Ps. 46:1-3) and that You are 'Immanuel' God-with-us Who is right beside me right now (Matt. 1:23; Isa. 7:14). Lord, keep my mind and my heart humble before You so that You can teach me Your way of peace in these circumstances (Ps. 25:9; Prov. 16:7; Isa. 59:8). Keep my head and my attitude low in humility before You and Your people; keep me walking in the fear of the Lord. I surrender my desires to You. Let Your will be done—Your will is my will and I ask for your grace and power to give up my will for Your will in these circumstances.

6. Die to self, die to fears and sinful desires, and die to the circumstances that threaten you. Release them to the Lord.

- Galatians 2:20 "*I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me*."
- Romans 6:11 "*In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus*."
- Romans 8:13 "*For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live*."
- Psalm 46:10 "*Be still* [Heb. Let go (one's grip)], *and know that I am God.*"
- Mark 8:34-35 "*If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it.*"

Pray: *Lord, I die to myself and my desires...* (Specify them!). *I die to all sinful desires that are coming into my mind and feelings now...* (Specify them.). *I die to all feelings and thoughts that are not of You, Lord Jesus* (fear, dread, abandonment, insecurity, anger, bitterness, etc.—specify them.) *and in the authority of Jesus' Name, I put them to death by the power of the Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:13) and the power of the blood of Jesus (Rev. 1:5) and break them off of me. I break off all demons bringing these desires, feelings and thoughts against me and I command them to leave me now (James 4:7,8 and Matt. 4:10; 16:23; Rev. 12:11; Eph. 2:1,2; 4:27 and context; 2 Tim. 1:7; Rom. 8:15; Luke 13:11; Zech. 13:2; Hos. 4:12; 1 Kings 22:22).*

Lord, help me not look at and think about the things that are not from You—the darkness and the demonic forces—so that I am swallowed up by the darkness coming against me now. But help me to focus on You, Lord Jesus and Your Presence, Your light, Your power, Your purity in my mind and heart now, Lord. Your Word says that 'God is light and in Him is no darkness' (1 John 1:5). Help me walk in the light, as You are in the light, so that I can have fellowship with You, and so that Your blood, Lord Jesus, can purify me from all sin (1 John 1:6-9). Fill me up, Holy Spirit, with the thoughts and feelings that come from the Lord Jesus!

I die to these circumstances that are threatening or pressuring me (not being able to pay my bills, the possibility of losing my house, car, apartment, losing this or that friendship, losing my job, not knowing which direction to take, etc. Specify them.). *I release them to You, Lord. If it is Your will that I go through the worst-case scenario, I release myself and die to self to go through it for Your sake, Lord Jesus, and to lose my life and my will for Your sake, because I love You, Lord. Let Your will be done rather than my will.*

Let me feel Your peace that is within me, Your power and Your strength to endure whatever You let happen to me and to love You and obey You through it step by step. Thank You, Lord, that You are making me more aware of Your light which fills me, Your Spirit, and Your love, and that you will give me victory in Christ and that I will find Your grace and strength in time of need (Heb. 4:16). Lead me in Your steps of peace that will bring Your salvation and breakthrough into my life and my circumstances (Isa. 52:7).

7. Give thanks *in* everything and give thanks *for* everything.

Give thanks to the Lord not only for the good things in your circumstances but also for the bad things. Welcome the Lord's jurisdiction and power over the bad things by thanking Him and praising Him for them ("You are the Holy One Who is enthroned in the praises of Israel" — Ps. 22:3), because He is working for our good through the bad as well as the good.

- Ephesians 5:20 *"Always giving thanks to God the Father FOR* (Greek huper) *everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."*
- 1 Thessalonians 5:18 *"Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."*
- Romans 8:28 *"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."*

Pray: *Lord Jesus, I thank You for…* (Specify the **positive things** in your circumstances.). *Lord Jesus, I also thank You for all the bad and hard things…* (Specify the **negative things** in your circumstances.) *and thank You that You are working for my good through these bad things happening to me. I forgive all those who are and have been hurting me, betraying me, or giving me a hard time. Show me Your steps and path of peace through these circumstances. Come in, Holy Spirit, and fill these circumstances with Your will and Your power so that Your will is done in them and in me. Jesus, have Your way in me, and I thank You that Your way is the best way for me.*

8. Receive the life, peace, and power of *"Christ in You, the Hope of Glory"* (Col. 1:27).

- John 15:5 "*I am the Vine; you are the branches. If a person remains in Me and I in them, they will bear much fruit; apart from Me you can do nothing*."

- 1 Corinthians 6:17 *“He who unites himself with the Lord is one with Him in spirit.”*
- Isaiah 26:3 "*You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you.*"
- Isaiah 40:31 “*But those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint*."

Pray: *Lord, I rest in Your faithfulness and I ask You, Jesus, to release in me through Your living presence within, Your peace, Your stability, Your power, Your purity, Your patience, Your clarity, Your prophetic revelation, Your wisdom, Your plans and strategies. Please release in me the mind of Christ (1 Cor. 2:16).*

Lord, I praise You that You are the Vine and I am the branch. I thank You that the branch and the vine are one and You are the Branch as well (John 15:5). I am in You and You are in me (John 14:20). I thank You that You are the roots, the flower, the fruit—You are more than I can ask for or desire and I am one with You (1 Cor. 6:17).

Thank You that I am one with Your fullness, that I don’t have to strive to receive Your holiness, Your power, Your provision, Your peace, but that as I believe and accept the fact that I am one with You and give thanks to You for it, Your life and resources are released in me, and I will find it to be so indeed in me and in my circumstances (Eph. 3:19).

Thank You that when my body and mind can’t take any more pressure, Your life and power release me and lift all the strain and weight off of me (Matt. 11:28-30) and Your ocean of light and life and holiness and peace and stability are instantly released in me as I rest in You and Your faithfulness.

Thank You, Lord Jesus, that all that I need is in You and Your presence. Thank You that all that I need for my life (food, clothing, provision, money, etc.) and for the power of godly living comes from your Holy Spirit’s power released in me through knowing You, Jesus (2 Pet. 1:3). Thank You, Lord, that I have been given fullness in You and that You are the head of every power and authority (Col. 2:10) so that You have absolute miraculous control over all my circumstances.

Thank You that I can rest in Your faithfulness. Thank You that even when I am faithless You remain faithful to me and faithful to all Your promises (2 Tim. 2:13; 2 Cor. 1:20). Thank You that Your faithfulness to me is great and Your mercies are new every morning (Lam. 3:22-23). Thank You that You will never forsake me as I trust in You (Ps. 37:28), that You are guarding my life (Ps. 97:10), and that You will be faithful to keep Your promises to me (Ps. 145:13 NIV). Thank You that You will never leave me nor forsake me (Heb. 13:5). You

are always with me and You are my Helper so that man can do nothing to me and satan can do nothing to me without Your letting them through to me (Heb. 13:6).

Thank You that because I am one with You (John 15:5; 1 Cor. 6:17), I cannot remain poor while You are rich, I cannot be without food and covering while You have these things in Your hands, I cannot be weak while You are strong, I cannot be without peace when You are the God of peace. Therefore I receive and thank You for Your riches (financial and spiritual), Your provision, Your peace, and Your strength right now, through the power of Your Holy Spirit releasing it to me. I believe that I have received it and thank You for it as if it were in my possession now and thank You that it will be mine (Mark 11:22-24).

Thank You that nothing can keep You, Lord Jesus, from carrying out Your will in my life. Thank You, Lord, that You are my Savior and that You bear my burdens daily (Ps. 68:19). Thank You that I do not have to be afraid because You are with me; I do not have to look anxiously about me, because You are my God and You will strengthen me. You will help me and uphold me with Your righteous right hand (Isa. 41:10). Thank You that Your resources for me are equal to every emergency that I might face (Phil. 4:13,19). Thank You that in the easiest situations You must give me Your grace and in the most difficult situations Your grace and strength will be just enough for me (2 Cor. 12:9).

Thank You, Lord, that You cannot sin. In You I count myself dead to sin and alive to God (Rom. 6:11). Thank You that You can keep me from sinning and from offending You, as I depend on You (Gal. 2:20; Jude 24).

Thank You, Lord Jesus, that I can do all things through Your strength and power in me (Phil. 4:13) and in me You can do all things that You are calling me to do (John 14:20; Gal. 2:20; Col. 1:27).

9. Listen to the Lord's voice and obey what He says to do. This stage is when He works miracles in our circumstances.

- John 10:27 *"My sheep listen to My voice; I know them, and they follow Me."*
- Matthew 11:28-30 *"Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."*

Pray: *Lord, show me Your heart and mind for these circumstances* (or this problem I face, or this need that I have). *Show me what You want me to do, and give me Your strength and strategy to do it.*