

Everything's Alright!

The Booklet

Where You Can Learn . . .

How & Why Prayer Works

. . . & . . .

Three Simple Rules For Happiness

by David M. Butcher

***Dedicated to my wife,
life partner,
and best friend;
the woman I love . . .
Carolyn Richards***

Prologue

This was not intended to be a book in the beginning. Much of it is actually the testimonies that I give during the Christian country presentations that my wife and I perform at churches, church events, fairs, festivals, senior centers, and other events.

I was asked more than once if the information was available in writing, or on a CD. So I began writing. A CD may come later.

The project started as two booklets, given two subjects, but neither seemed long enough. So I combined them, for better value, and named the end product after our latest album and show.

I could attempt to "fill them out" enough for each to stand on it's own, but am afraid they would just get wordy and stray way too much. Either that, or I'd have to do a bunch of research and an "in depth" study of each subject. I don't think you would like the result near as much, nor would it be as meaningful. Besides, others have already done that.

I have not studied theology. I only know what I've found on my own. Please don't expect me to be an expert. I offer only the benefit of my experiences. I hope you find the stories enlightening and the messages beneficial.

Dave Butcher



How & Why Prayer Works



Hi! My name is Dave Butcher and I have a story to tell you that I hope you will find inspiring & uplifting. If you are suffering with loneliness, despair, or any other negative feeling, I hope you will listen and hear the secret of making prayer work. Prayer really does work. Let me tell you about it.

You may or may not like me today, but you definitely wouldn't have liked me a few years ago. I was a liar and a cheat, . . . even a thief.

I would lie about the tiniest things. Nothing was ever my fault. I'd invent an elaborate story about how mustard got on my shirt.

Why was I like this? There was really only one reason . . . I wanted people to like me and I had this crazy notion that they wouldn't like me unless I was perfect, or at least appeared to be.

I felt inferior. I thought everyone else knew exactly what they were doing at all times, in other words, they were perfect.

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On the other hand, I felt superior in some ways because I was good at things like math, electronics, and other technical stuff.

I thought that if I could just put it all together . . . if I could just figure out “THE SECRET”, I would have the world by the tail. I felt very frustrated, because that secret continuously eluded me.

I also thought I needed lots of money to impress yo’all. So, after nearly four years in the Air Force and 2-1/2 years of college, I found myself working for a burglar alarm company in Los Angeles, California. I was living in my car because I gambled away my paychecks each week trying to get rich, and couldn’t pay rent. I had been stealing money from petty cash boxes of the very companies I was supposed to be protecting, just to be able to eat and get through each week.

That didn’t last very long. I stole a shirt at a clothing manufacturer and lost my job after failing a lie detector test. I didn’t need the shirt . . . I just liked it.

I took my last paycheck and checked into a boarding house. At least I would have food and shelter while I looked for a new job.

I tried lying about how I lost my job a few times. Then I found out that potential employers were calling my old boss, and he wasn't lying about my reasons for leaving. I'm grateful for that now, but at the time I chose to get mad about it. I mean the least he could do was be nice about it and lie for me, couldn't he?

I went out one evening and got drunk. That's a story in itself, as my buddy & I only had two dollars between us, and we spent one of those on gasoline. He put it in the car while I was getting a ticket for an illegal left turn into the service station. Later that night, I got arrested for drunk driving and spent the next seven days in the Los Angeles County jail. My buddy, Tom, was arrested for drunk in public.

Jail was not a nice place. We had to take turns sleeping because there were ten of us in the cell and only six beds. Most of the others were "criminals". Three were burglars . . . I remember that because they kept asking me about alarm systems. One guy had murdered a store clerk during an armed robbery.

The whole deal was pretty scary for an introverted young man that was still reacting emotionally as he had when he was five years old. I was too scared to sleep.

That was the week that changed my life. It helped to turn me around and steer me in the right direction. In the following days I finally found the answer . . . the secret I had been looking for . . .

You see, I didn't have TV at the boarding house. Since I had no money and no place to go, I borrowed books from other boarders and spent most of my time reading.

One Sunday, a day I couldn't really look for work, I borrowed one neighbor's last book, the only one he had that I hadn't read. It was titled 'Alcoholics Anonymous'. I didn't have anything else to do, so I started reading.

I got to about page eleven when the story started discussing God. I was about to set the book aside because I didn't want to hear about God, but the man in the book responded as I might have. Of course, that got my attention.

I turned the page . . . and there, about the middle of page twelve, was the sentence that saved my life. "Why don't you choose your own concept of God?"

That sentence started me thinking. I began, "Well, if I thought there was such a thing as God, what would my concept be?"

It definitely would NOT be the concept I got from the pastors when I was younger. All that stuff seemed so magical that it couldn't be real.

That was why I gave up on religion as a teenager. A place where the streets are gold and angels fly seemed more like a fairy tale than anything else. And how is anyone supposed to live eternally where there's nothing but fire? We were taught that fairy tales weren't real, so why should we believe this stuff that the pastor was preaching?

The "Hell & Damnation" preachers simply produce guilt, and who wants to feel guilty? Not me. My parents used enough guilt producing statements, I didn't need more! I also didn't need to feel someone was watching over me, waiting for me to make a mistake, and ready to send me to hell if I did. "The Wages Of Sin Is Death!" ?? . . . and almost anything you do is a "sin" to somebody?? I hated to even hear that word!

I thought about a scientific approach. One thing that all the religions seemed to agree on is that prayer works. So, how could that possibly work? I thought then about brain waves. Scientists had proven that the brain produces waves. Could they be the communication means for prayer to be conveyed to a higher power or superior being? My answer to myself was, "Yes, they could! Couldn't they?"

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That thought led to another, that led to another, that led to another, eventually bringing me to a spiritual experience that has served me well ever since. You see, I suddenly found myself standing on a surface somewhere in the universe and looking down on the entire galaxy. A presence just slightly behind me was pointing over my shoulder, indicating where Earth was. It seemed I was standing next to the Lord himself.

I read the rest of that book that day, and went to an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting that very evening, with my neighbor. They told me that there were twelve steps to leading a good life and that the very first thing I really needed to do was to be honest, especially with myself, but also with others.

The next thing I knew, I was telling people the absolute truth, when I normally would have lied, and guess what? People actually liked and admired me for doing so!

A couple of weeks later, I told a prospective employer the truth about how I had lost my last job, and what had happened since. Know what happened? He hired me! He gave me a job! He put me to work! All this blew my mind! It was absolutely Amazing!

So many good things have happened to me since then. I began to discover the real world. I searched for the truth in everything and in every situation. I studied AA's twelve steps. I studied the Bible [this time realizing the metaphor and simile of the times.] I soon became the person I always wanted to be . . . confident, courageous, "able to leap tall buildings in a single bound," at least in my mind.

During those first few days after my spiritual experience, I discovered the real power of prayer. My automobile had been impounded when I was arrested. So, I was without transportation when I started turning my life around.

One evening, I wanted to go to an AA meeting that was being held in a building twenty two LA city blocks from where I lived. I gave it some thought and decided that I was gonna get there somehow or another.

I had no money to take the bus, much less a taxi. My neighbors were already out for the evening. So, I prayed. I said, "Lord, I'm going to this meeting tonight if I have to walk all the way there, but, somehow, I know you won't make me do that!"

I left my building, walked to the corner and started down the street. I didn't get half a block before an acquaintance that I hadn't seen for several months pulled up to the curb

and asked me where I was going. He had recognized me from behind, and he offered me a ride.

Prayer really does work! It works for all the little things in your life as well as the big things. It always works when we work it right.

So often I hear a quote from the Bible misquoted. That passage is, “Whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.” *Matt 21:22* Note that it says “shall” not “might”.

How many times have I heard that passage quoted without the word “believing”? It is such a critical word! Without it prayer will not work! Let me repeat that . . . without faith, without belief, without believing, prayer will not work. With faith, with belief, prayer always works . . . for everyone . . . for anything. It seems to be a law of the universe as surely as the law of gravity is!

The next day after getting a ride, I thought about my car as I awoke in the morning. It had been impounded when I was arrested and the impound fees were going up every day. One day I’m worried about how to get seventy dollars to get my car back. The next I’m worried about how I can get \$72.50 to get my car back.

Well, after the experience with finding a ride, I felt there must be a way. I couldn't believe that I would find \$75 that day, but I could believe that I could find a job and get a paycheck before the car was sold for fees. So I prayed about it, this time believing I would be able to get my car back, and went out to a job interview.

The interview I was sent on that day was just around the corner from the college I had attended earlier. I had dropped out shortly before everything started going wrong. Since I was in the area I decided to drop by and say hello.

The finance officer was the only one there as everyone else was out to lunch. We sat down in his office and talked. I told him what had been happening with me. When I was finished, he opened a desk drawer and pulled out two checks.

While attending school, I had been getting government checks, on the GI Bill, to help pay tuition. I would have thought that they would have sent those checks back immediately on receipt, since I had dropped out. But, he had two of those checks, \$220 each, and he offered them to me. Sure, I'd have to pay them back eventually, and I did, but meanwhile I had some money to get by on and to get my car out of impound.

God works in such mysterious ways! Once I could conceive a way, and believe that I would be able to get my car back, the Lord answered my prayers immediately, and not quite the way I thought!

I have had so many personal experiences with prayer since those days that I know, without a doubt, that prayer works. Those times that it doesn't seem to work are times that I don't really believe. I'm talking about such times as praying to win the lottery, or praying a certain person would love me. Those are times that I don't really "know" that my prayer will be answered as I want. When I "know", when I truly believe, my prayers are always answered. I sometimes think that we could walk on water . . . if we could only believe that we could!

Friends of ours, Johnathan and Ginger, are Christian singers. They are staunch believers in the power of prayer as Johnathan's life was saved twice through prayer. He had been pronounced dead by a doctor both times.

Johnathan was looking through a magazine one day and saw an item, a porcelain Jesus, that he thought would be nice to have. But, it was a \$200 item, so he simply prayed to have it and went on. Three days later, the appreciative mother of a shooting victim that Johnathan prayed with,

gave him a gift. It was the same exact item he had wished for!

Johnathan's wife, Ginger, just had to try it for herself. She picked an item from a catalog and prayed for it. Three days later the item appeared at their home. The catalog delivery time was 6-8 weeks. God's delivery time was three days!

Above excerpted from the Young Harmony CD "Testimonies"
Visit www.youngharmony.com to purchase your copy!

Jesus was resurrected in three days. Whenever you've got a problem, pray and wait three days. See if it doesn't make a difference! What was your biggest problem three days ago?

Carolyn's daughter and my step-daughter, Kim, lives about two thousand miles away in Montana. One day she was talking with her co-workers about the whisk they all used at work. She mentioned that she'd sure like to have one for her own kitchen. She received a package from her mother when she got home that evening and guess what was in it! She had fun telling her co-workers about it the next day!

Time changes everything! If three days isn't enough, try a few more! What were your greatest challenges a month ago? A year ago? Do you even remember?

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As I write this, it's a day that my wife and I were supposed to be in another state. We were scheduled to tape a TV show today, February 17, 2003. Nearly three weeks ago, Carolyn told me that she "just knew" that we wouldn't be able to go on this day. She doesn't say things like that often.

Yesterday, the worst winter storm in years hit our area. The roads today are icy and dangerous and there is a Level Three emergency status in all our surrounding counties.

Level Three means that emergency vehicles only are allowed on the road. We could be arrested for traveling today. We couldn't go to that taping today if we wanted to.

All this tells me that there is definitely something in the air. Brain waves? Sixth sense? Perhaps. Whatever it is, I'm grateful to our Lord for providing it. It makes prayer work!

Images envisioned in our minds seem to be projected, somehow, to a higher power that answers our prayers. The mind responds to images much more quickly than thoughts in the form of words. The mind and body work to make those images come true.

But be careful! *Job 3:25* - “For the thing which I greatly feared is come upon me, and that which I was afraid of is come unto me.”

When we worry, we envision negative images in our minds. These may also come true. It’s been said many times, “Be careful what you pray for, it just might come true.” I might add: Especially if you believe it can!

Prayer really does work! It seems to be a law of the universe as surely as the law of gravity is! Try it for yourself. Once you “know”, you will never want to let go. You will always want prayer in your life! You will soon learn the real meanings of, and find out how to . . .
“Take It Easy” and “Let Go And Let God”.

You will then also know that in everything we do, with every step we take . . . “The Lord is gonna see that Everything’s Alright!”

Three Simple Rules For Happiness 😊

Happiness. We want it. We pursue it throughout our lives. The United States constitution even provides for the right to pursue it.

But happiness is not something to pursue. It's also not something that just happens to you. Other people don't make you happy, either. All the money, all the success, and all the love in the world can't make you happy. Only you can make you happy!

Do you know how to have happiness in your life on a more or less constant basis? There are three rules that I use to stay happy . . .

The first rule is: Decide to be happy! That's right, you have to make a decision to be happy. Will Rogers said it this way . . . "Most people are about as happy as they decide to be." Decide to be happy. Make that decision right now.

Will Rogers (1879-1935) cowboy humorist, author, radio commentator, philosopher

The next rule is: Be happy regardless what your circumstances are. It may not be easy.

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I know it's not easy to be happy when you are out of work, have no money, and are looking at losing whatever it is that you own. I was there.

I know it's not easy to be happy when you have no transportation and you need to be somewhere. I was there.

I know it's not easy to be happy when you are alone and have no significant other. I was there.

And I was happy. On a scale of one to ten, I may only have been at level 7 or 8, but I was generally happy.

[Read my story in How & Why Prayer Works in the earlier pages of this book]

I recall when I was young and working for the telephone company in California. I used to use the thought, "It's a matter of attitude!" to keep myself feeling fine.

I remember getting a ticket for speeding, only three miles over the limit, on my way home from work. It was my 24th birthday. I politely accepted the ticket and went on feeling good by repeating that statement to myself.

But, life has many ups and downs . . . So . . .

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Rule three: Be happy regardless what happens! Don't let anyone or anything destroy your happiness. It is possible to do this! You can do it! And it gets easier all the time!

Sure there are things that you have to do that you don't like. There are things that happen to each of us that are sad, or painful, or even physically harmful. That doesn't mean we have to let them affect our overall happiness!

There are times that we need to be serious. No one is happy 100% of the time. But we can be serious and still be happy. Happiness does NOT mean that we are smiling every moment. *When you can learn to take even the bad things that happen in stride, and not dwell long on them, YOU CAN BE HAPPY* most of the moments of your life.

More recently, I was just groovin' 'bout the house one weekend gettin' ready to go golfing when the water heater suddenly went baloohey. The back side, next to the wall, had rusted out and was now leaking all over the basement. Let me rephrase that. Water was pouring profusely out the back of the tank.

Now, I could have cursed the thing and ranted and raved, but I didn't. I calmly looked over the situation, decided exactly what had to be done, went to the hardware store to

get what I needed, and fixed it in less than three hours! I didn't let it ruin my weekend. Or my state of mind. I like being happy!

You just do the things you have to do and make the best of every situation. That's not always easy, but it is possible.

You do need certain things to be happy at the uppermost levels on the happiness scale. "The grand essentials of happiness are: something to do, something to love, and something to hope for." By noted author Allan K. Chalmers.

Tom Bodett forwarded this quote to me. Thanks, Tom! "We'll leave the light on for ya'!"

The first thing Allan says we need is something to do. That could be your work if that's what you truly love to do. But work is a four letter word for most of us, so find something you really like to do, and find the time to do it.

The second thing he says we need is something (or someone) to love. Note that he says something to love, not someone to love us. That could be your child, your dog, or maybe even your spouse. You can also try loving life or even the Lord. It works.

The third thing Allan says we need is something to hope for. We need something to look forward to.

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Samuel Butler once said that “people are happier on the way to a picnic than on the way home.” If you can find a way to always be heading for a picnic, and working at something you love doing to get there, with a loved one, then you have to be the happiest person you can be. Working toward a mutual dream with a loved one is the most wonderful thing you can do for yourself!

Samuel Butler (1835 - 1902) English composer, novelist, & satiric author

If you are letting the Lord lead you, your happiness will increase even more. You will find that He can help far more than you might now imagine.

“We are weak but He is strong!” Let Him guide you through your life and through your endeavors. You will not regret allowing Him to help you.

The only reason that I have found for living here on earth is to learn. Let me repeat that sentence . . . The only purpose that I have found for living here on earth is to learn. That may be so that we can be better guardian angels when our time comes. I don't know. But, learn all that you can.

Search for truth. Search for those things you do not know. Learn all that you can. Most importantly, learn about yourself. I was my own worst enemy when I was young.

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I am often still my own worst enemy. I am still learning about myself.

Learn to be grateful. Be grateful that you can cry. Be grateful you can laugh. Be grateful for all those things that you can feel. Let's especially be grateful that we can be happy.

You absolutely can learn to be happy most of the time. You can learn to brush those lousy feelings and disastrous events aside, and just be happy, regardless. You can do it! The really good thing is that it gets easier and easier as you do!

Life is a series of moments. I want you to know that you can choose to make life tough on yourself. You can get mad or worry about everything, and be hard on yourself and everyone around you. Or you can choose to learn how to take things in stride and be happy most of the moments of your life. It's not easy, but it's worth it!

You won't do it perfectly. You will make mistakes. You will have to apologize for them. You will make them again. You will have to apologize again. "Mama said there'd be days like this." Que Sera, Sera. Shake it off.

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It's hardest for me at work. Sometimes I just get mad. Sometimes I just worry. Then I calm down and get over it.

Sometimes that happens due to medications, sometimes not. Medications and other drugs can severely alter your mental state. Some people like what they do, but that's always temporary. I prefer not to take drugs because I prefer to be happy without them. It lasts longer and it's much better to be high on life.

As I write this, I've just learned that I have diabetes. I will admit that the news got me down a little for a couple of days. But, now I am learning what I have to do, how to do it, and when to do it.

Know what I've found through the experience? I can still be happy! I can especially be happy that this discovery means I can live many more happy years than I might have otherwise.

It seems almost everything works out for the best in the long run. At least it has so far for me and for everybody I've asked. Remember . . . with everything we do, with every step we take, . . .the Lord is always gonna be there to make sure that Everything's Alright!

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*“Our mission is to help as many people
as possible to learn how and why
prayer works and how to be happy
most of the moments of their life.”*

This mission is financially supported through love offerings,
performance fees, and the sale of booklets & CD's

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CRM - 04022 Patsy, We're Still Lovin' You

CRM - 02102 Everything's Alright! - The Album [Christian Country]

Everything's Alright! - The Single

Released to radio in spring 2002

It stayed on the Christian Country Top 100 Chart 3 months!

Everything's Alright!

The Booklet

Some comments from advance readers:

"I started reading the book and didn't want to quit."

Vickie Gardner, Power Source Magazine, Nashville, TN

"It's an inspirational piece of reading!"

Wanda Green, Marietta, Ohio

"WOW! Thank you for allowing GOD to use you.

The book is great! Also, thank you for letting us be part of it.

I know GOD will use this to reach out to unbelievers and that is KOOL!"

Johnathan Bond, Morning Star Recording Artist "Young Harmony", Chattanooga, TN

"Is it worth reading? Most assuredly! Will it help some people? Most assuredly!"

Ronald W. Smith, Corporate VP, Parkersburg, WV

featuring:

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