

# HE PRAYED

**The Power of Prayer In Making Life Choices**

*How he did it, and how you can, too.*

*“Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness;  
and all these things shall be added unto you.”*

Matthew 6:33

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## The Power of Prayer In Making Life Choices

BY GEORGE E. WINTERS

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Dedicated to all of the young people  
who are learning to pray and listen  
for the guidance of the Holy Spirit  
in their life choices.

~ Matthew 6:33 ~

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## *Chapter One*

CIRCA 1954

William Ray Houston was twenty-six years old when he knelt by the side of his bed and prayed aloud. Since the time he had served in the Navy, most people referred to him as “William,” or simply “Will.” His family would probably call him “Billy Ray” forever. What he was called really did not bother him. It was more important that people thought of him as a man of integrity.

Tonight, William addressed his prayer to the Holy Spirit, firmly believing that Jesus Christ has ascended to the right hand of His Father and that He has sent a Comforter to be within those who accept Jesus as Lord and Savior.

The bed he knelt beside was in a single room with an attached bath, one of other such rooms in the building. It was small but homey and was a short bus ride to his job. He always paid his rent one month in advance. He couldn’t afford an apartment.

William was a millinery buyer for a department store and had been transferred to St. Louis about a year before. Department stores didn’t pay very much in those days, and they expected five and a half days’ work, short lunches, and short vacations. They also had the policy of being open until

nine on Thursday nights, as well as every night after Thanksgiving through Christmas. It wasn't a very attractive job, and the future didn't seem very bright.

William had befriended several of the traveling salesmen who called on him each and every season, so he knew a bit about their lifestyles. They made much more money, traveled their territory, had trips to major cities to pick up the line, plus expense accounts. It sounded much better than his humdrum nine-to-five department store life. And, they had a good time! He was still single, and their lifestyle appealed to him.

Kneeling beside his bed, he told the Holy Spirit what he wanted. He knew the Bible said that "the effectual, fervent prayers of a righteous man availeth much." Well, he didn't feel very righteous, but he was a very decent guy with good, if not high, morals. He was effectual, in that he was familiar with most of the Bible, thanks to a lifetime of Sunday school and church. In that period of time, pretty much everything had been covered. He was fervent, in that during the two and a half years in his uninteresting job, he saw no future. A strong, healthy, ambitious young man managing a millinery department? Ladies' hats? There was no excitement in that. Nor was it an appealing, interesting vocation to the young ladies he dated. It was certainly not exactly "macho"!

William prayed aloud each night, and the more he prayed the more articulate he became. He had two themes. The first was well defined. He yearned for a traveling job selling women's ready-to-wear. The second was for a wife. He was lonely living away from the home and friends he grew up with in Dallas.

Over time, as he prayed, it became clear to him that he was on the wrong road. It wasn't a bad road, but the direction was six hundred miles in the wrong direction, away from

friends and family. Marrying a local girl there would pretty much seal that distance, and his parents were in their later years. He had an older brother and sister that he was close to, as well. If he was going to change jobs, it made sense to seek something in the area where his family was located. It was obvious that he needed to get off the department store road in St. Louis and go back to square one in Dallas.

He called his mother and made sure that it was okay to live with his parents while he sought work. He gave notice to the millinery company and drove home to Dallas with very little cash and very high hopes.