

On Prayer and Passing the California State Board of Exams for
Optometry
by Dr. Sheldon B. Johnson

I can tell you exactly where I was standing in the room as about 300 of us were gathered, each at our own desk, each with a blue book before us. It was the culmination of six years of hard work and study. It cost hundreds of very scarce dollars to take the test.

I wrote my name on the cover, opened my blue book, looked at the questions in it... and thought: "I don't even know what they're talking about. I don't know a thing! "

I worked through a third of the questions and didn't know a one. I had been anticipating this moment for six years. I thought: "What am I doing here? I've failed everyone! I can't do this unless I get some help."

Panic set in. I closed the book, closed my eyes, folded my arms and bowed my head and pleaded with the Lord that I would be inspired to know what I needed to do. I didn't want to fail, but I couldn't do this alone. I pleaded with him for a long time: "Help me Lord, to bring to remembrance the things I have learned."

I opened my eyes. The panic was gone. Very calmly I looked down at some questions. Thoughts and answers started to flow. Before the period was through I had answered every question. With satisfaction I knew I had done well. It took about four hours to finish this section.

I came back the next day for the last half of the test and the panic was still gone. I felt confident, and did very well, while one third of the class failed. You needed 70% to pass, and I had 88%, one of the higher scores of the class.

I would never want to influence people to believe that the Lord will do the work for them, because that will never happen. I know that the Lord will not put answers in your head that you have not studied for, but the Holy Ghost will inspire you to recall everything you have paid the price for.