

PRAYER

Numbers 6:24-26 "The Lord bless you and keep you! May the LORD make his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you! May the Lord turn his face upon you and give you peace!"

What is prayer?

Consider a very simplified definition of prayer: Prayer is putting a situation before the Lord, listening to His answer, and speaking about God's will in the face of the situation. True prayer is the most powerful force in the world, it brings the strength of our Almighty God into action. However, true prayer is sorely lacking in our generation, most Christians have not been taught to pray by the Word of God but have learned to listen to or experience other often erroneous examples.

The prayer is:

Talking to God

Prayer is the simplest form of expression in the Christian life, it is talking to God, it can be done by a believer with the faith of a son who invokes the name of the Father, from within him.

Gal 4:6 "Now because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying out, 'Abba, Father.'"

Ask or ask

To pray is to ask God for the blessings we need, or to express to Him our desires or what we crave.

1 Chr 4:10 And Jabesh called upon the God of Israel, saying, Bless me, I pray thee; it enlarges my boundaries; be your hand with me and preserve me from evil so that I do not have to suffer!" And God granted him what he had asked for.

Jesus said we should ask:

Mt 21:22 "And whatever you ask for in prayer, having faith, you will receive."

Jn 16:23-24 "Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in my name, he will give it to you. So far you have asked for nothing in my name; ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be complete.

Make a request or supplication

Prayer is supplication when it means asking humbly or fervently (intensely), when we plead with God, we recognize that we are incapable to meet our needs and we are dependent on His help.

1 Kings 8:33-34 "When your people Israel are defeated by the enemy for sinning against you, if they return to you, if they give glory to your name and pray and supplicate you in this house, hear them from heaven, forgive your people Israel their sin, and bring them back to the land that you gave to their fathers."

1 Sa 1:17 And Eli said unto her, Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant thee what thou hast asked of him.

Ask for a favor

Praying can be in the form of asking for a favor and means asking intensely or begging.

Ex 8:8 And Pharaoh called Moses and Aaron, and said unto them, Pray unto the LORD that he may turn the frogs away from me, and from my people"

Making intercession

Prayer is intercession, as is prayer in favor of another in general.

Is 53:12 "Therefore I will give him his share among the great ones, and he will divide the spoil with the mighty, because he has poured out his life to death, and has been numbered among the evildoers; He bore the sin of many and interceded for transgressors.

An Act of Worship

In the book of Revelation, prayer is identified as a perfume in the presence of God.

Rev 5:8 And when they had taken the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders bowed down before the Lamb, each having a zither and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

How grand it is that the prayers of the saints are gathered in golden bowls in heaven! What prayers are worthy of keeping? Certainly not a list of mistakes, sins, complaints, anxieties, anxieties and selfishness. But rather prayers like Jesus' while he was hanging on the cross.

Lk 23:34 And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

Certainly Stephen's prayer while he was being martyred must be taken up in heaven as an act of worship.

Ac 7:59-60 So they stoned Stephen, who called on Jesus and said, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not impute this sin to them." And, having said this, he fell asleep.

A service

There is a real service to God in praying for His people.

Lk 2:37 "She was a widow, and though she was now eighty-four years old, she never left the temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer.

The apostle Paul wrote of Epaphras working in prayer:

Cl 4:12 "Epaphras, who is of yours, and is a servant of Christ, greets you; he always fights for you in prayers, that you may stand firm, perfect, and fulfilled in all the will of God.

Communion with God

God created Adam and Eve to have fellowship with Him, He would come down in the breeze of the day and walk with them before sin would enter the scene. From that day to today, there is a deep desire within every human being to walk and talk with God; Prayer is communion with God, just as God speaks to man through His Word and by His Spirit, man speaks to God in prayer. "Communion" means sharing our deepest thoughts, vivid desires and feelings with each other, it means having a two-way conversation. Have you ever spent time with a person who talks non-stop about themselves, their job, their home, their car, their problems, and never wants to know anything about what you're thinking or feeling? After a while you begin to wonder why you were there with her, this is the way many of us

behave towards God. We have our list that could go on and we can spend our time in a one-sided monologue, but as soon as God begins to answer, we realize that time is up and we have to move away. To have fellowship with God, we must speak with Him and allow Him to speak with us; The book of psalms is a wonderful book on prayer and talks about how to cry out to God, call God, seek God, there are prayers of agreement, of faith, of deliverance, of combat, of authority and more... All prayers made from the heart delight God.

Pr 15:8 ... but the prayer of upright men is pleasing to him.

The two languages of prayer - The Spirit - The mind (intelligence)

Paul prayed in spirit and then prayed in mind.

1 Corinthians 14:14-15 "For if I pray in another tongue, my spirit prays well, but my mind remains unfruitful. So what should be done? I will pray with the spirit, but I will also pray with the mind;

Does this mean that he prayed in one way or another, or that he prayed first for the spirit and then with the mind? In Ephesians he explains the concept better.

Eph 6:17-20 "Take also the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times with all manner of prayer and supplication in the Spirit, watching for this purpose with all perseverance and prayer for all the saints, and also for me, that when I open my mouth, I may be able to speak boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am ambassador in chains, so that I can announce it frankly, as it is my duty to do.

The apostle Paul said that we must take the helmet of salvation and the Word of God with us and pray in the Spirit. Why did he point this out? "That when I open my mouth, I may be given to express myself frankly, as I ought to speak." When we take the Word of God and pray in the Spirit, our mind becomes fertile; Our minds receive revelation from God, they become enlightened, and then we can frankly and correctly pray with our minds (intelligence).

The Holy Spirit in Us - Grace and Supplication

When Zechariah prophesied the coming of the Holy Spirit, he referred to Him as the Spirit of grace and supplication, of unmerited favor and prayer.

Zech 12:10 "I will pour out upon the house of David and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication....."

The apostle Paul wrote:

1 Corinthians 2:12,14 "Now we have not received the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who comes from God, that we may know the things that have been given to us by God. Now the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, because they are foolishness to him, and he cannot know them, since they are spiritually judged.

The apostle John wrote:

Jn 16:13 "But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth, for he will not speak of himself, but will speak all things that he has heard, and will tell you things to come.

Prayer and gifts of the Holy Spirit

It is so powerful when we pray and allow the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow freely within us! Generally, we pray things we don't know naturally after we have spent time praying in the Spirit, in tongues; This knowledge can come through the gift of tongues and interpretation, the word of knowledge or the word of wisdom. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are at work when we suddenly know about something we didn't know before, we know exactly how to pray, and because we've heard from God and so personally, about that situation, our faith becomes supernaturally strong. When we work in the gift of faith, miracles happen.

Ineffable sighs

The apostle Paul wrote:

Rom 8:26-27 "In the same way the Spirit also helps our weaknesses, because we do not know what we should ask for in prayer, as it is fitting; but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with ineffable sighs. And he that searcheth hearts knoweth what the mind of the Spirit is, for he intercedeth for the saints according to God.

Has anything ever happened to you that hurt you so terribly that there was no way you could put it into words? Physically, you dropped yourself into your chair, your lap, or even the floor. Inside there was a deep desire to pray but you were too hurt to do it with words, after a time, you realized that beyond words, beyond your human understanding, there was a communication between you and God. This is the "ineffable sigh" that cannot be expressed in words; The Holy Spirit takes its place and then you begin to feel peace coming from your inner being.

Springs and rivers of living water

This is the flow of the Holy Spirit through believers that John was talking about when he wrote:

Jn 7:38-39 "He who believes in me, as the Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from his bosom." This he said of the Spirit, which those who believed in him were to receive;

The importance of prayer:

Prayer is the greatest privilege of the Christian life, and privileges always bring responsibility; God's blessings and promises come in answer to prayer.

Jesus said to pray

Mt 6:6 "But when you pray, go into your closet, and shut your door, and pray to your Father in secret; and your Father, who sees in secret, will reward you publicly.

Jesus didn't say, "If you pray." He said, "When you pray." He assumed that the disciples, and we would pray.

Great men prayed

Every verse or event in the Bible is there for a reason and we have considered the prayers of Abraham, Moses, Elijah, Elisha, Hezekiah, Jeremiah, Daniel, Jonah, Manasseh, Nehemiah, Jabez, Epaphras, Paul and the most important of all, Jesus.

The early church prayed

In the early church, prayer had a place of considerable importance.

Ac 1:14 "All of them continued with one mind in prayer and supplication.....

Ac 2:42 "They persevered in following the apostles' teaching, in fellowship, in the breaking of bread and in prayers.

Acts 12:5,12 "But while Peter was in prison, the church was praying to God for him continually. When he realized the situation, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John, surnamed Mark, where many brothers were gathered and praying.

Acts 13:1,3 "And in the church of Antioch there were prophets and teachers... Then, after fasting and praying, they laid their hands on them and dismissed them.

Before we can pray effectively, we must understand who can pray, what our position in Christ is, and what our authority is.

Who can pray?

A prayer for salvation, made with a contrite heart and with faith in Jesus as the Son of God, is always heard; The thief who was dying at the cross prayed and was answered.

Lk 23:42-43 "Then he said to Jesus, 'Lord, remember me when you come into your kingdom.' Then Jesus said to him, "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise."

The publican prayed and was heard:

Lk 18:13 But the tax collector, standing at a distance, did not dare to lift up his eyes to heaven. but he beat his breast, saying, "O God, be appeased toward me a sinner."

Examples from Scripture

The course of life makes no difference, financial success makes no difference, God hears the people who call His name, the people who humble themselves, the people who delight in Him, the people who entrust their way to the Lord.

God's People

2 Chr 7:14 "If my people, upon whom my name is called, humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn back from their evil ways, I will hear from heaven, and forgive their sin, and heal their land."

Those Who Delight in the Lord

Ps 37:4 Take your delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Those Who Trust in Him

Ps 37:5 Cast your lot in the LORD, and trust in him, and he will work.

The humble

Ps 10:17 O LORD, thou hearken unto the desire of the humble; You strengthen their hearts, your ears are attentive.

The poor and the derelict

Ps 69:33 "For the Lord heareth the needy.....

Ps 102:17 "He will hear the prayer of the destitute, and will not despise their supplication."

The Sufferer

Jom 5:13 Is there any of you who are suffering? Pray.

The oppressed

Is 19:20 "It shall be a sign and a testimony unto the LORD of hosts in the land of Egypt; when they cry out to the Lord because of their oppressors, he will send them a savior and a mighty one who will deliver them.

Jom 5:4 Behold, the wages which you defrauded from the labourers who reaped your fields cry out; and the cries of those who have reaped have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts.

Widows and orphans

Ex 22:22-23 "You shall not oppress any widow or orphan. If you oppress them in any way and they cry out to me, I will certainly hear their cry.

Those Who Do Not Have Wisdom

Jom 1:5 "But if any of you lack wisdom, let him ask God, who gives to all freely without reproach, and it will be given him."

Researchers according to truth

Ac 10:30,31 And Cornelius answered, "Four days ago I fasted until

At this hour, and at the ninth hour I was praying in my house, when behold, a man stood before me in a shining robe, and said, "Cornelius, your prayer has been heard, and your alms have been remembered before God."

The Righteous

Pr 15:29 "The Lord is far from the wicked, but he heareth the prayer of the righteous."

Our Standing in Christ

To understand how we should pray, we should understand our position in Christ, for many years, we came to God as "poor lost sinners," we came to Him with feelings of unworthiness and condemnation, we saw ourselves as destitutes, and there was no way we could believe that God could care for us, listen to us, or work through us. This is not the way God sees us, we were poor lost sinners, but through Christ we were bought into the market for the slaves of sin, now we are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, when we pray, we have to see ourselves in this position.

Sin, always a barrier

Established Sacrifices

When Adam and Eve sinned, they no longer had fellowship with God, they were forced to leave the Garden of Eden where they had had the opportunity to walk and talk with Him, face to face. God in His goodness made them the first blood sacrifice to give them a garment.

Ge 3:21 "And the LORD God made for Adam and his wife garments of skins, and clothed them."

In Genesis 4, we find the story of Cain and Abel making offerings, sacrifices to the Lord. One was accepted, the other was not. Why? Cain had come into the presence of the Lord without the shedding of blood.

Ge 4:2-5 And Abel became a shepherd of flocks; while Cain became a worker of the land. As time passed, it came to pass that Cain made an offering of the fruits of the earth to the Lord; and Abel also offered the firstborn of his flock and their fat. And the Lord looked upon Abel and his offering, but he did not look upon Cain and his offering.

Through Moses, the law was given and God established different sacrifices for different sins, but always, from one end of the Old Testament to the other, of the Old Covenant, God provided a way for men and women to approach Him through sacrifices, through the shedding of the blood of innocent animals; All the sacrifices pointed forward to the perfect Sacrifice, the coming of the Lamb of God.

Established Priests

God appointed priests to be mediators between the people and God, and they offered sacrifices for the people. God established the High Priest, the priest who once a year could go to the Most Holy Place and approach the place of grace (propitiatory), and could, after making special sacrifices, go into the presence of God on behalf of the people.

Ex 25:17,21-22 "You shall also make a mercy seat of pure gold; Its length shall be two and a half cubits, and its breadth one and a half cubits. Then you shall place the mercy seat on high, above the ark; and in the ark you will put the Testimony that I will give you. There I will meet you, and from above the mercy seat, between the two cherubim that are on the ark of the Testimony, I will communicate to you all the orders that I have to give you for the children of Israel.

Jesus Became Our Sacrifice

When Jesus died on the cross, He became the Perfect, the complete Sacrifice for our sins, removed the penalty for sin. It would take a lifetime to understand all that Jesus did for us when He became our sacrifice, He took our shame (because of sin), He took our curse, He paid the penalty for our sin, He made us new creatures! Now, we can frankly enter into God's presence as his sons and daughters.

Heb 9:26-28 But now, only once, at the end of the ages, Christ was manifested to take away sin by the sacrifice of himself. And as it is ordained that men should die once, and after that comes judgment, so also Christ, after being offered once to take upon himself the sins of many.

Heb 10:12,14 "But he, having offered forever one sacrifice for sins, sat down at the right hand of God, waiting only for his enemies to be placed as his footstool. For by a single offering he has made those who are sanctified perfect forever.

Our High Priest

The epistle to the Hebrews shows how Christ, through His blood, became our High Priest, and opened the way for every believer to come into God's presence.

Heb 2:17 "He was therefore to be made like his brethren in all things, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the things pertaining to God, to make atonement for the sins of the people.

Heb 9:11,14 "But Christ, having come as high priest of the good things to come, through a greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. How much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself free from all guilt to God, purify your conscience from dead works in order to serve the living God!

Our Way

Joh 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father except through me."

There was a heavy veil in the temple separating the Holy Place, where the priest could minister, from the Most Holy Place, the place where only the High Priest could minister. This veil symbolized the separation between God's presence and humanity. The only way by which the High Priest could go into the presence of God was this veil, once a year. At the moment when Jesus died on the cross, this veil, in a supernatural way, was torn from top to bottom.

Mt 27:50-51 "And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and gave up his spirit. And behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.

Today, the way to God's presence is still through the veil, through Jesus, by the Spirit of God, we are no longer required to wait for the Day of Atonement, we are no longer required to bring a sacrifice for our sins to the priest and for him to do it for us; We are required, just like the priests of that time, to have faith with a pure heart.

Heb 10:18-22 "Now where there is forgiveness of these things, there is no more sin offering. Since, therefore, brethren, liberty to enter the sanctuary, by virtue of the blood of Jesus, which is the recent and living way

which he has opened for us through the veil, that is, his flesh, and having a high priest over the house of God, let us approach with a sincere heart, in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse them from a bad conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

We were bought at a high price

We have been bought at a great price and so we can bring glory to God.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 "Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you do not belong to yourselves? For you have been bought with a price, so glorify God in your body and spirit, which belong to God.

Forming a chosen and holy generation

We don't have to approach God as "poor lost sinners", this is what we were. Now, every believer is part of a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a special people!

1 Pt 2:9 "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy people, a people purchased for God, that you may proclaim the wonders of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light."

We have become kings and priests

Peter referred to believers as a royal or royal priesthood, the apostle John wrote in Revelation that Jesus made us kings and priests for His God and Father.

Rev 1:5-6 "To him who loved us, and washed us from our sins in his blood, and made us kings and priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever." Amen.

It is important that we be called priests and kings.

- A priest makes intercession and a king rules
- A priest asks for, intercedes, and stands between an impious (not holy) people and a just God.
- A king prays authoritatively, taking authority over prayers.

When Jesus wept over the sins of Jerusalem, he was working as a priest and is our example as a priest.

Mt 23:37 "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kill the prophets and stone those who are sent to you. How many times have I wanted to gather your children as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you did not want to!

When he was in the midst of the storm and said, "Shut up and be still!" he was acting as a king and is our example of how to act as a king on this earth.

Mr 4:39 And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, Be still, and be still. And the wind stopped and it became very calm.

So what is our position?

Every believer who walks in faith and obedience has the right to enter into the presence of God because of redemption through the blood of Jesus and through Jesus our High Priest. That is why we have been told that we can go frankly and with full confidence.

Heb 10:19,22 "Wherefore, brethren, we have liberty to enter into the sanctuary, virtue of the blood of Jesus..., let us approach with a sincere heart in full certainty of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to purify them from a bad conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

Heb 4:16 "Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with full confidence, that we may obtain mercy and find grace, that we may receive help in time of need.

It is those who give the proper place and value to the blood of Jesus who can draw near to God with boldness and trust in prayer.

Our Authority in Christ

When God created Adam and Eve in His image, He created them on the same planet where satan and all his demons were cast when they were cast out of heaven. The first thing He said to Adam and Eve after their creation was, "Let them have dominion!"

Ge 1:26-27 "Then God said, Let us make man in our image and after our likeness, and let him have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over all the creeping things that creep upon the earth." Thus God created man in his image; he created him in the image of God; male and female he created them.

Domination means to subjugate, to control, to conquer, to subjugate; What, on earth, a perfect earth, created by God, needed to be controlled, conquered and subdued? Satan and his demons. When Adam and Eve sinned, God did not withdraw the authority he had given them, mankind gave it to satan, and satan became the god of this world; For many years, satan has maintained this authority, and even though terrible things have happened, God has not taken it away from him, why? Because he delegated it to humanity.

The Last Adam

The first Adam was created to walk in authority on this earth, to have dominion over Satan and his demons, and to have friendship with God. Jesus as the last Adam, the perfect human being came to walk in authority on this earth, to defeat Satan, to live a perfect life and to die as our substitute, the perfect Sacrifice.

1 Corinthians 15:45 Thus it is also written, "The first man, Adam, became a living soul." but the last Adam is the Spirit who gives life.

We must realize that Jesus did not work on earth, in His power as the Son of God, put aside those rights and worked on earth as the Son of man, a perfect man.

Phil 2:6-8 "Who, being in the form of God, did not consider being equal to God something to cling to, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, becoming in the likeness of men; and, finding himself in the outward likeness of a man, he humbled himself, becoming obedient unto death, and death on a cross.

At death, Jesus defeated Satan, took the keys of the kingdom, and gave them to believers, to His body, His Church.

Mt 16:19 "And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; Whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven

Jesus said that she was going to build a church and that the gates of Hades would not prevail against her, and that whatever we bound on earth would be bound in heaven and what we loosed on earth would be loosed in heaven. Jesus described this delegated authority in Mark.

Mr 13:34 It is as if a man were to go on a journey, and leave his house, and give authority to his servants, and to every man his duty, and to the door-keeper to keep watch.

When we pray, we release God's power and authority by allowing it to work on earth; In heaven, God has all authority, but on earth, He has given His authority to the church, to you, and to me. The authority that must be exercised on this planet must come from those who are in Christ!

Free Volition

Just as God has given mankind dominion and authority over this earth, He has given mankind free will; Just as God will not violate the kingdom of authority that He has given to mankind, so He will not violate our free will, volition is simply the right to choose. Adam and Eve had the right to choose between God and disobedience; God never gave away this right that He gave to all mankind through Adam and Eve. We have the right to choose, we can believe in God or not believe, we can love him or not love him, we can serve him or not serve him, the choices that affect what we do every minute of every day are ours, the responsibility for what happens because of these choices is also ours. We often hear believers ask, "How can God allow such a terrible thing to happen?" God did not allow it, we did it! Authority on this earth belongs to us, Jesus took it back for us, he gave us the keys of authority. The only thing that satan or his demons can do on this earth is what humanity has allowed him to do. It is time for us to become bold in Christ Jesus, to learn to pray and to take dominion with our restored authority.

In His Name

Our position and authority are completely in Jesus, so we must always pray to the Father in Jesus' name, we have been accepted in Jesus, we are loved in Him, we are joint heirs with Him, everything we have is in Jesus.

Joh 14:6,13 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father except through me. And whatever you ask in my name I will do so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

Jesus prayed

Jesus is our example in every area of our Christian journey, to know what we need to do, we should study what He has done. During Jesus' earthly

ministry, people came to Him and He met their needs, freeing them from the bondage of demons and healing their bodies. Jesus was a man of prayer, praying and teaching His disciples to pray, responding to people's requests wherever He went. There is great encouragement for us in these answers, we will only look at some of these prayers and answers.

"Yes, I do"

A leper came to Jesus and said to him, "If you want, you can cleanse me."

How thrilling Jesus' answer is: "Yes, I do!"

He expressed the Father's heart when he said, "Yes, I do!"

Mr 1:40-42 And a leper came to him, and pleaded with him, and fell on his knees before him, and said to him, If thou wilt, thou mayest cleanse me. And Jesus, moved with pity, stretched out his hand, touched him and said to him: "Yes, I will, be clean!" And as soon as he had said this, the leprosy immediately left him and he was healed.

If our prayer is for healing, God still wants it.

Believe

We have another example of an answer to a prayer for healing when a ruler of the synagogue fell at Jesus' feet and pleaded insistently for his daughter's life. As he asked, the worst possible news came: "It's too late, your daughter is dead." But Jesus said, "Do not be afraid, just believe." What a challenge for us, when we prayed and all hope went away, we still have to believe.

Mr 5:22-23,35-42 "Then there came one of the rulers of the synagogue, named Jairus, who saw him, and fell at his feet, and prayed to him very earnestly, saying, 'My daughter is in the extremes; come and lay your hands on her, that she may be healed and alive.'" While he was still speaking, some came from the house of the ruler of the synagogue, saying: "Your daughter is dead; why do you still bother the Master?" But Jesus, as soon as he heard what was being said, said to the ruler of the synagogue: "Do not be afraid, only believe!" And he did not suffer anyone to follow him, except Peter, James, and John, James' brother. And when he arrived at the house of the ruler of the synagogue, he saw a great commotion and people crying and shouting loudly. And when he went in, he said to them, "Why are you

making so much noise and weeping? The girl is not dead, but sleeps." And they mocked him; but he took them all out, and took with him the father, and the maiden's mother, and those who were with him, and went in to where the maiden lay. Then he took the girl by the hand, and said to her, "Talitha cumi"; which translated means: "Maiden, I say to you: Arise!". And immediately the maiden got up and began to walk; she was in fact twelve years old. And they were seized with great amazement.

According to your faith

The two blind men knew how to cry out to Jesus:

Mt 9:27-30 "And as Jesus was leaving there, two blind men followed him, crying out, saying, 'Have mercy on us, O Son of David!' When he entered the house, the blind men came to him, Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I can do this?" They answered him, "Yes, Lord." Then he touched their eyes, saying, "Let it be done to you according to your faith." And their eyes were opened.

Be specific

The two blind men were sitting on the side of the road and pleading. Ever since Jesus had passed by, they had been crying out, "Lord, have mercy on us!" Jesus answered: "What do you want me to do?" Were they asking for money or healing?

Mt 20:29-34 "As they were leaving Jericho, a great crowd followed them. And behold, two blind men who were sitting by the roadside, when they heard Jesus passing by, cried out, saying, "Have mercy on us, Lord, Son of David!" But the crowd rebuked them to be silent; but they cried out even louder, saying, "Have mercy on us, Lord, Son of David!" Then Jesus stopped and called them and said, "What do you want me to do to you?" They said to him, "Lord, let our eyes be opened!" And Jesus, moved with pity, touched their eyes; and instantly their eyes recovered their sight and followed him.

What those around them said: "Calm down! Leave him alone!" but they continued in their requests; However, they were not specific enough. In this example, there are two truths for us, we need to keep crying out to God for our needs even when others tell us to stop and we need to be specific.

He scolded the demon

Mt 17:14-21 "When they came to the crowd, a man came up to him, and knelt before him and said, 'Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is epileptic and suffers greatly; he often falls into fire and also into water.

The disciples asked Jesus about their lack of power in this situation and Jesus gave them the reason, their unbelief, and the solution: prayer and fasting.

Jesus' Life of Prayer

Everything we have, everything we are and everything we need to do is through Jesus, if Jesus, the Son of God, the last Adam, the perfect man needed to spend time only with God how much more do we need to do the same?

He prayed at His baptism

We must not only say that He prayed, but that He prayed and God answered.

Lk 3:21-22 "Now as all the people were baptized, Jesus also was baptized; and while he was praying, heaven opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon him, in bodily form as of a dove; and a voice came from heaven saying, "You are my beloved Son, in you I am well pleased!"

He prayed in solitude, during the day

Mr 1:35 And in the morning, while it was yet night, Jesus arose, and went out, and went into a deserted place; and there he prayed.

He prayed with the disciples

Lk 9:18 "While he was praying by himself, the disciples were with him;

He prayed before making important decisions

Lk 6:12 "In those days he went up to the mountain to pray, and he spent the night praying to God.

He withdrew and prayed

When the multitudes were all around Him and many desired the healing, Jesus often withdrew and prayed. The needs of the people did not prevent him, did not hold him back from spending time in prayer.

Lk 5:15-16 "But his fame spread more and more; and a great many people gathered to hear him and be healed of his infirmities. But he withdrew to the deserted places and prayed.

Mr 6:46 And he took his leave, and went up the mountain to pray.

He prayed before a miracle

Jesus asked for God's blessing on the food and then distributed it to the disciples and they to the crowd; Prayer was the first step in the miracle in which the five thousand were fed.

Lk 9:16-17 "Then Jesus took the five loaves and the two fish, and looked up to heaven and blessed them, and broke them, and gave them to his disciples to distribute to the people. Everyone ate to their heart's content and twelve baskets were taken away from the leftover pieces.

He prayed for the little children

Mt 19:13,15 "Then children were brought to him to lay his hands on them and pray; but the disciples rebuked them. And he laid his hands on them and went away from there.

He prayed for Simon

Lk 22:31-32 "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has asked to sift you as one sifts wheat; but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and

you, when you are converted, strengthen your brothers."

His face was transformed

Once upon a time, Jesus prayed, and His face and clothing were transformed.

Lk 9:28-29 About eight days after these words, Jesus took Peter, John, and James with him and went up the mountain to pray. As he prayed, the appearance of his face was changed and his robe became of a dazzling whiteness.

He prayed for us!

The entire chapter 17 of John shows us a wonderful prayer of Jesus, as his time on earth was drawing to a close, he prayed for the disciples, the believers of that time and for those who would follow him.

Joh 17:1-19 "Glorify me that I may glorify you, I have done the work, I have manifested your name, I have given them your words, I pray for them, keep them in your name, that they may have joy, preserve them from the evil one, sanctify them, I pray for those who believe in me through them!

Jesus' prayer continued for the disciples and believers of that time and then he prayed for those who would follow him, that includes us! Jesus prayed for us while he was on earth.

For those who would have believed

Jn 17:20-26 For the unity of believers, to have glory, to be made perfect, to be one day with Him, to be filled with His love.

At Gethsemane

(Mt 26:36; Mr 14:32) Jesus was facing death, he was in sorrow and deeply distressed and he knew that he had to pray, it was his desire that the disciples would pray with him but they could not, many of them knew what was happening. Jesus prayed in anguish.

Jn 12:27-28 "Now my soul is troubled; And what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour? But that's why I came to meet you at this hour. Father, glorify your name!" Then came a voice from heaven, saying, "I have glorified him, and I will glorify him again!"

Matthew's report on this moment shows us the humanity of Jesus, he longed for the closeness of others who could hold him up, in prayer. In His humanity He was laying down His will to do God's will unto death on the cross.

Mt 26:39-40 Jesus prayed, "Not as I will, but as you will." When Jesus found them asleep, he asked: "Have you not been able to watch with me even an hour?"

Then he told them why they should pray: that they would not fall into temptation, that they might follow their human will. The second time Jesus found them sleeping, he allowed them to sleep, he did not warn them again.

Jesus prayed for the third time, "Thy will be done." Luke, the doctor, gives us a vivid picture of this time of prayer.

Lk 22:42-44 "Father, if you wish, take this cup away from me. But not my will, but yours be done." Then an angel appeared to him from heaven to strengthen him. And being in agony, he prayed even more intensely; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling to the ground.

On the Cross: Father Forgive Them

Jesus' prayer when he was on the cross must be considered the most grandiose of all Scripture; He was betrayed by his creature, he was insulted, hated and crucified by those he had created, he was killed by those to whom he had gone to bring salvation. If there was one person on the face of the earth who had a reason not to forgive, it was Jesus, and likewise, as he hung in excruciating pain, dying, he prayed, "Father, forgive them..."

Lk 23:34 Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

His last cry

Lk 23:46 "Jesus cried out with a loud voice, 'Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.' With that, he expired.

Keep praying for us

Jesus was a man of prayer, an example for us of continuous prayer, today, he is still praying, he is interceding for us in heaven.

Heb 7:25 "Therefore he is perfectly able to save those who come to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

"Lord, teach us to pray"

The disciples reported that Jesus' life was a life of prayer and one day they said, "Lord, teach us to pray." There was something different in Jesus' life, there was something they needed.

Lk 11:1 Jesus had been by himself praying; when he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray as John also taught his disciples."

The Lord's Prayer

The Lord's Prayer was a model that the disciples would use as a reference point for their prayers, it was not to be repeated as it has been done for centuries in religious ceremonies or even of many words, but short and specific.

Mt 6:9-13 "Therefore you pray thus, 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name; your kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; forgive us our trespasses as we also have forgiven those who trespass against us; preserve us from temptation, and deliver us from the evil one. For to thee belong the kingdom, and the power, and the glory for ever, amen.'" (Lk 11:2-4)

"Our Father in Heaven"

Jesus reminded the disciples of their position, when we go to God in prayer we must go there as children of God, it is our right, established by the covenant, to go to Him just as natural children run to their earthly parents.

Rom 8:15-16 "And you did not receive a spirit of bondage to fall back but you have received the Spirit of adoption, through whom we cry out: "Abba! Father!" The Spirit himself testifies together with our spirit that we are children of God.

"Hallowed be Your Name"

Even though we are beloved children of God, we do not rush into His presence with disrespect, we give Him honor. "Sanctified" means to make holy, to purify, to consecrate, to regard with respect or reverence, to appreciate, to cherish, to care tenderly. We take time to sanctify His name by saying things from our hearts that revere Him.

"Thy kingdom come"

When we pray, we must say, "Thy kingdom come," not our kingdom. Many do not realize this, they have prayed for the building of their own kingdoms, a more beautiful house, a bigger car, a better job, even a more extensive ministry. Jesus said that we must say, "Let the kingdom of God come." We must be in agreement with God and then command that His will be done on earth in our situation. To come, a Greek term (*ercomehe*), means "to come from down there to here". It does not mean: "God commands and what will be, will be", it does not mean: "It would be nice if... but whatever

it is your will God will be"; When Jesus said "come" in the Greek language, it means, "To call those things that are not as if they were," it means, "You, come from over there to here."

Walking on water

Peter walked on the water in response to Jesus' invitation to say, (her-comehe), "Come." (Mt 14:28-29) Peter was a fisherman, he knew that humans do not walk on water, yet in response to his desire: "Lord, command me to come to You on the water," Jesus replied: "Come." Peter moved from the natural to the supernatural realm, walked on water, but immediately afterwards being frightened, he sank and returned to the natural realm. (Mt 14:30-31) Often it is the same today, as we move into the supernatural realm, in prayer, we begin boldly, but then we look at the circumstances, we allow doubt to come and be afraid, eventually failing, finding ourselves exclaiming like Peter: "Lord, save me, help me to believe!"

The centurion

The centurion came to Jesus to plead with him to heal his servant and Jesus said, "I will come and heal him," but the centurion knew that it was not necessary for Jesus to go, and that he could speak and his servant would be healed. (Mt 8:5-10) The centurion explained that since he was under authority and had soldiers under his authority, he had understood what authority is, he used the term come (hercomehe). v.9-10 We will never be able to understand speaking with authority, commanding, if we are not first in true submission to God's authority. Come (hercomehe) is not a suggestion, it is a command, it is a call forward, with authority "Thy kingdom come!" The kingdom of God will not come unless he is first commanded to come. On earth, God gave this form of authority to us, this simple prayer that Jesus gave to the disciples is built on an understanding of the authority that God gave to Adam and Eve.

"Thy Will Be Done on Earth as in Heaven"

It is a great part of the prayer that Jesus gave us.

In the sky

In heaven there is only one will and that is God's, there are no alternatives; God's will is done joyfully and automatically, there are no dissensions, but only yes and amen.

On land

Jesus said that we are to do God's will on earth just as it is done in heaven; When Adam and Eve sinned, they exercised their wills contrary to God's, and all mankind has done the same since that day. For years, we have prayed for our will to be done, "Lord, we need a new car, a new house, a job. Jesus is not only our Savior, but also our Lord and King, we must submit our will to Him, so we will no longer say, "Lord, I will or desire..." God's will cannot be done in a corner of the earth before we, the body of Christ, say, "Lord, your will be done on earth as it is done in heaven." What a grand prayer! We have a responsibility to be a cover for our families, our neighbors, our cities, and the countries in which we live. The devil comes to kill, steal and destroy, and the reason he can do this is because we have not learned to pray to release God's power in our situations, the more we study God's Word and pray in the Spirit the more we will know how to proclaim before us God's will in our lives.

What is the kingdom of God?

Prophesied by Daniel

We must proclaim the kingdom of God in our situations, to make this more effectively, we must understand what the kingdom of God is.

From 7:13-14,18,27 "I looked in the night visions, and behold, there came on the clouds of heaven one like a son of man; he reached the old man and was brought close to him; dominion, glory, and kingdom were given to him, so that the people of every people, nation, and tongue might serve him. His dominion is an eternal dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is a kingdom that will not be destroyed. Then the saints of the Most High will receive the kingdom and possess it forever, eternally." Then the kingdom, the power, and the greatness of the kingdoms that are under all the heavens will be given to the people of the saints of the Most High; his kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all the powers will serve him and obey him."

From Daniel we learn that the kingdom is eternal and it is the saints who receive it.

Prophesied by John the Baptist

Mt 3:2 "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

The kingdom of God came to earth with the ministry of Jesus. Later, in prison, when John asked if Jesus was the One of whom he had prophesied, Jesus sent him the answer: (Mt 11:4-5) Jesus sent John testimonies of the blind recovering their sight, the lame walking, lepers being cleansed, the deaf recovering their hearing, the dead being resurrected, and that the gospel was being preached as proof that the kingdom of God had come.

Jesus preached the kingdom, speaking and acting with authority

Jesus mentioned the kingdom of God many times in addition to the reference of the Lord's Prayer in the Lord's Prayer.

Mt 9:35 Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every infirmity.

The preaching of the kingdom was accompanied by the healing of every sickness and infirmity among the people.

Lk 11:20 "But if it is with the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come to you."

Jesus reported casting out demons as a sign that God's kingdom had come to us.

Jesus sent the twelve disciples to preach the gospel of the kingdom.

Mt 10:7 "As you go, preach, and say, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons: freely you have received, freely give.

The kingdom of God includes healing the sick, cleansing lepers, raising the dead, and casting out demons.

Jesus sent out the seventy to preach the gospel of the kingdom.

Lk 10:1,9 "After these things, the Lord appointed seventy more disciples, and sent them out two by two before him to every city and place where he himself was about to go. Heal the sick who will be there and say to them: 'The kingdom of God has drawn near to you'.

The kingdom of God comes bringing healing and deliverance, Jesus said, "Heal the sick who are there and then say, 'The kingdom of God has come.'

Philip preached the kingdom with power, the multitudes heard and saw the miracles he performed: demons cried out and fled, the paralytic and the lame were healed. (Ac 8:5-8)

Ac 8:12 "But when they believed Philip, who brought them the glad tidings of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, men and women.

The first evangelistic expansion after the death and resurrection of Jesus concerned the kingdom of God.

Mt 24:14 "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world, that it may be borne witness to all nations; then the end will come.

The future prophecy of the kingdom.

Rev 11:15 "Then the seventh angel blew the trumpet, and mighty voices were raised in heaven, saying, 'The kingdom of the world has passed to our Lord and to his Christ, and he will reign forever and ever.'

An unshakable reign.

Heb 12:28 "Therefore, receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and offer God acceptable worship, with reverence and fear!

A believer in God who is based on their own human knowledge can be cast down, a believer in God who is based on experiencing, hearing, and seeing the kingdom of God preached with power, signs, wonders, and miracles cannot be shaken. The outward signs of God's kingdom that we have seen are exciting! These signs are the ones that God uses to reach out to the unsaved, with the message of salvation. The kingdom of God is also internal, inside the believer, it cannot be seen. Jesus said that the kingdom of God could not be seen, but rather that it was of the Spirit, within us.

Lk 17:20 And when the Pharisees asked him when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them, "The kingdom of God does not come in such a way as to attract the eyes; nor will it be said, "Here he is," or "there he is"; for, behold, the kingdom of God is in your midst."

Entry into the kingdom

Jn 3:5 Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless anyone is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

To be part of the kingdom of God, we must be born again, born of the Spirit. Many have made an intellectual prayer recognizing that they believe that Jesus is the Son of God and that He died for their sins, but they have not entered the realm of the Spirit, they have only made a mental decision for Christ, they have not been converted through an encounter with Jesus Christ, which has transformed their lives, they are not born again through the Spirit of God. Jesus said that what is born of the flesh is flesh and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. The apostle Paul wrote:

1 Corinthians 2:12-14 "Now we have not received the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who comes from God, that we might know the things that God has given us;

It is a sad fact that many who are in churches on Sunday mornings have never been born again at present, some have been brought up in Christian homes and know, intellectually, how to speak and act as Christians, but have never had the experience of the new birth. Others, who have joined organizations but have never had a personal experience with Jesus, are good, often great people, may be responsible in the church but have never made the decision to repent, convert and bring Christ into their lives. It is impossible to live a Christian life when the person does not have the life of God within himself! We cannot enter into a life of prayer unless we have first come into a correct relationship with Him, unless we have first entered into the kingdom of God.

The Kingdom of God is justice, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. (Rom 14:17)

Justice

The Kingdom of God within us is justice, this justice cannot refer to our personal justice because Isaiah tells us that our justice is like a dirty garment. (Is 64:6) At the time of salvation, God's righteousness is attributed to us through Jesus who took our sins.

2 Corinthians 5:21 "He who knew no sin, he made sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in him."

Justice is not really the absence of sin, it is the positive attributes of God in all His absolute perfect holiness and righteousness. When we pray, "Thy kingdom come," as we are commanded to do, we are saying, "Justice come." Do you wish to be fair? Do you wish to be holy? We need a

revelation of holiness, righteousness, and integrity. The apostle Peter made this so simple, he wrote, "Be ye holy!"

1 Peter 1:15-16 "But as he who called you is holy, you also must be holy in all your conduct, for it is written, 'Be holy, for I am holy.'

God wants us to be holy, we're not talking about a legalistic list of outward things: "Do and don't do." True righteousness is to be conformed to His image, to be changed from glory to glory, to be changed from within!

2 Corinthians 3:18 "And all of us, with uncovered face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are changed into his own image, from glory to glory, according to the action of the Lord, who is the Spirit.

Peace

There is something very special about justice, when we seek the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, suddenly, there is peace, it is a normal fruit of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Peace is not something we can strive to achieve, it is not something that is done once and for all. Many people think that they will have peace when they have a certain amount of money in the bank, they will have peace when God straightens out their little boys or their spouse, maybe peace will come when they take a new position, retire or move to another country! But none of these things can bring peace. Jesus is the Prince of Peace, when we make him Lord of our lives, our Prince, we will have peace. Paul encourages us to allow the peace of God that surpasses all knowledge to guard our hearts and minds.

Phil 4:6 "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication make your requests known to God, accompanied by thanksgiving." And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus.

Joy

Joy is not superficial happiness that we sometimes feel, joy comes from deep within ourselves. David wrote in the psalms:

Ps 16:11 Thou hast taught me the way of life; there are joys to satiety in your presence; at your right hand there are delights for ever.

True joy comes from abiding in God's presence. Jesus commanded us to

He encouraged us to pray continuously. (Mt 9:38; Lk 18:1)

Lk 21:36 "Watch therefore, praying at all times, that you may be able to escape all these things that are coming, and to stand before the Son of Man."

The apostles encouraged prayer, the first deacons were placed in their position in the church, so that the apostles could give themselves to prayer and the ministry of the Word.

Acts 6:4 "As for us, we will continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

The apostle Paul said that it was his desire that we always pray in holiness.

1 Tim 2:8 "Therefore I want men to pray everywhere, lifting up pure hands, without anger and without dispute.

Eph 6:18 Pray at all times, by the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication; watch for this purpose with all perseverance. Pray for all the saints...

James said that we should pray for one another.

Jom 5:16 "Confess your sins to one another, pray for one another, that you may be healed; The prayer of the righteous has great effectiveness.

Peter told us to be vigilant in prayer.

1 Peter 4:7 "The end of all things is at hand; Be moderate and sober to devote yourselves to prayer.

David prayed, the book of Psalms is full of his prayers.

Ps 109:4 In return for my friendship, they accuse me, and I do nothing but pray.

Prayer Glorifies God

Jn 14:13 And whatever you ask in my name, I will do; so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

Prayer Delights God

Pr 15:8 ... to the LORD, ... the prayer of the upright is pleasing to him.

God Hears and Answers Prayers

Ps 65:2 To you, who hear prayer, every creature will come.

Ps 86:7 I call upon thee in the day of my distress: for thou shalt answer me.

When we come to God in prayer, we should first remove everything that is holding us back from coming into His presence, then our own Prayers can be made by faith.

Entering into a Successful Prayer Life

Jesus gave us three steps to a successful prayer life (Mt 7:7-11)

Ask and you will receive

Asking implies a dependence on God, going to Him for our every request, we must ask just like the blind people sitting on the street who called Him: "Lord, may our eyes be opened!" When we ask, by faith, we will expect to receive, Jesus promised us that if we ask we will receive.

Search and find

Seeking speaks of an initiative made on purpose, of an urgent need that forces us to search until we find. This could best be represented by the woman from the flow of blood pushing through the crowd saying, "The moment I touch it, I will be healed." No one sets out in search of something unless they would expect to find it or if they were not desperate to find it. When we ask for something that we feel is God's will for our lives and the answer doesn't seem to come we should look for it, this would involve searching more for God's Word concerning that subject, it would also involve finding areas of the problem that are in our lives and that prevent our response from being manifested. Jesus promised us that if we seek, we will find.

Knock and it will be opened

Knocking gives the idea of being persistent, of not giving up until you receive. The Syro-Phoenician woman is the best example for this. (Mr 7:25-30). We must persist in prayer and faith until the answer comes. Jesus said that when we knock it will be open to us.

How to Pray

It is not enough to study prayer, we must do it, pray to God the Father through His Son in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Prayer addressed to God, the Father

Jesus prayed to God as Father ([John 17:11](#); [Mt 6:9](#))

Others prayed to Jesus

Although we have been instructed and encouraged to pray to God, the Father, this is not a legalistic rule that must be followed all the time. We know this because Stephen, at the moment of his death, prayed to Jesus: ([Lk 23:43](#); [Ac 7:59](#)) There are people who have been so hurt by their earthly fathers that they are afraid to pray to their heavenly Father, God knows this and as their relationship with Jesus grows He will reveal to them the truth, the love that the heavenly Father has for them by bringing them into relationship with Him.

In the name of Jesus

We must pray to the Father in the name of Jesus, our position before God is in Jesus, we are justified in Him. ([Joh 15:16](#))

Through the Holy Spirit

There are no instances in the Bible of a prayer to the Holy Spirit, however the prayer should be made through the Holy Spirit, depending on Him. ([Rom 8:26](#))

The apostle Paul said that we have access to God, the Father through Jesus and through the Holy Spirit. ([Eph 2:18](#))

Approaching God with Right Attitudes

Repentance

In the Lord's Prayer, Jesus taught us to pray: "Forgive our sins", this should always be part of our prayer life.

Example of David

King David sinned, and when confronted with that sin, he became an example of repentance for us. ([Ps 51:1](#))

Example of the Prodigal Son

One of the most beautiful stories of repentance is that of the prodigal son, he rebelled against his father and went his own way, finally at the moment when he was about to die of hunger, he decided to return to his father and ask for his forgiveness, he did just that; When his father met him in

Arms open with love, the son did not say to himself: "Oh, he probably does not see me as bad as I am, I can also not present myself before him, in humility, my father understands....." If we turn away from God we must come to Him with humility, and ask for forgiveness. ([Lk 15:18-23](#))

Our heavenly Father meets us with open arms when we simply come to Him and say, "I have sinned."

Humility

Humility means showing respect or submission to God. It means being submissive to God's opinion, desires, and decision through respect in acknowledging His authority, knowledge, and judgment, and knowing that we are walking in His name, not in our knowledge, position, or ability. ([2 Ch 7:14](#))

Obedience

John made it very clear that obedience has a lot to do with answering our prayers. ([1 Joh 3:22](#))

Faith

When Jesus ministered to the people continuously, he encouraged them to have faith. ([Mr 5:36](#), [9:23](#), [11:22-24](#); [Mt 8:13](#), [9:28](#); [Lk 8:48](#)). Without faith it is impossible to please God. ([Heb 11:6](#))

Praying in Secret

Not only pray publicly to appear better than others, but pray in secret that our prayers may receive the reward from God. ([Mt 6:6](#)) Jesus spoke of the prayers of the hypocrites; ([Mt 6:7](#)) Empty repetitions are expressions of fear and unbelief, sometimes when we are in the midst of a tension that permeates a situation, we may need something so desperately that we realize that we are saying the same words over and over again, at times like these, we have to stop the repetition and start quoting God's Word. This we can do over and over again, because it is by hearing and listening to the Word that faith comes to our spirits, by quoting God's promises we

will be edified so that faith can come. The strongest example of vain repetition is found in the comparison between Elijah and the priests of Baal. (1 Kings 18:26-29) The priests of Baal jumped around the altar, called out all day, carved themselves until blood came out, but there was no Baal to answer. Elijah approached God in the opposite way, restored the altar of the Lord, and they had to pour water on the sacrifice until the sacrifice was immersed in it, then Elijah came near and spoke; He didn't scream or jump or beat himself, these are all signs of unbelief, he said... and the sacrifice was consummated.

1 Kings 18:36-37 "At the hour of the offering, the prophet Elijah came and said, 'Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel, that I am your servant, and that I have done all these things at your command. Answer me, Lord, answer me, so that this people may know that you, O Lord, are God, and that you are the one who converts their hearts!'"

Steps to Success in Prayer

Abide in Christ

The first step to successful prayer is to abide in Christ, we must develop a lifestyle in His presence; Jesus said that if we do this, we can ask for whatever we want and it will be done. (Joh 15:7)

David said that the Lord would give us the desires of our hearts, if we first delight in Him, while doing so we are transformed into His image, our desires become conformed to His character. (Ps 37:4)

Asking according to your will

The apostle John gave us a wonderful promise that if we ask for anything according to God's will, we will have what we ask for. (1 Joh 5:14-15)

James wrote that we will not receive an answer to our prayers if we ask contrary to God's will, either selfishly, or with carnal motives for our own pleasures. (Joh 4:3)

At this point the question is, how do we know what is in accordance with His will? James said that we must ask God for wisdom. (Joh 1:5)

David prayed God's will

David prayed for his house, not a physical house but for his offspring, for his descendants, he based his prayer on what he had heard from God, he prayed according to that word. (2 Sa 7:26-29)

David listened to God's will and prayed it before God, confirming it to his spirit, proclaiming it before him so that it could become a reality.

Elisha Resurrected the Dead Child

The following example of an answered prayer is exciting, but much (it has not been said) is left in silence. (2 Kings 4:32-35)

Elisha had heard of the need, he prayed and then he went to the child, he must have done what God told him to do because he did not do a natural thing, he lay down on the dead child, the flesh became hot but the miracle was not complete, so Elisha left the room and walked back and forth in the house, he must have prayed, perhaps to confirm to the Lord what he had heard, perhaps engaging in a spiritual battle, and then returned to the child, lay down on him a second time, and the child opened his eyes; Elisha didn't say, "Wouldn't it be nice if..." and then he moved into action. He prayed first and then acted on the revelation he had received.

Praying in the Truth

John said that the Spirit of truth will guide us and speak to us. (Joh 16:13)

When we pray, we must be honest with ourselves and with God; The Hebrew word for "truth" also carries a meaning of firmness and loyalty. (Ps 145:18)

Praying in the Holy Spirit

Prayer is an expression of worship, and we are to worship in spirit. (Joh 4:23-24)

The apostle Jude wrote to pray in the Holy Spirit (Jude 1:20)

The apostle Paul said that we should pray at all times with all sorts of prayer and supplication in the Spirit. (Eph 6:17-19) We should never pray without first seeking the Holy Spirit for help. (Rom 8:26) When God has confirmed what He wishes to do in a situation either through His Word or through the Holy Spirit, faith comes to our spirits, we can pray with boldness and confidence. (Eph 3:12)

Pray Perseveringly, Intensely

Some prayers are not answered because we have never prayed, in the sense that we talk about a situation, we mention that we will pray for that thing but in reality we never start doing it. Other times prayers are not answered because we are not persistent in praying. The Apostle Paul told us to pray with perseverance by the Spirit. ([Eph 6:18](#)) Isaiah placed watchmen on the wall who would never rest and would not be silent but would pray constantly.

[Is 62:6-7](#) "On your walls, O Jerusalem, I have set watchmen; they will never be silent, neither day nor night. You who awaken the remembrance of the Lord, do not rest, do not rest to him, until he has restored Jerusalem, until he has made her the praise of all the earth.

Jesus taught us to persist in prayer: ([Luke 11:5-8](#))

Praying day and night

He said that we must pray day and night without getting tired.

[Lk 18:1,7](#) "He gave them this parable to show them that they should pray always and not grow weary. Will not God then do justice to his elect who cry out to him day and night? Will he delay in their regard?

Praying Consistently

When Peter was thrown into prison, the other believers prayed for him constantly, they didn't say, "Well, whatever happens we know that God has everything under control." ([Ac 12:5](#))

Pray effectively, fervently, persistently

When James said that we should pray for one another, he reminded us of Elijah praying intensely. ([Joh 5:16-17](#))

Fighting in prayer

Paul used the word "fight," which means to exert a lot of effort, energy, to struggle, or to fight with strength; Paul did not want indifferent people, prayers that said: "probably if it is Your will". Paul was in a battle and asked the brothers to fight with him in prayer. ([Rom 15:30](#))

Epaphras labored fervently in prayer: "I always fight for you in prayer."
([Cla 4:12](#))

Toiling in prayer

The apostle Paul wrote to believers in Galatia that he was toiling in prayer until Christ was formed in them; This is the only verse that has the meaning of prayer with the sense of fatigue as in childbirth and was written referring to believers. ([Ga 4:19](#)) My children? Once the severe birth pains have begun, they continue until the child is born; To toil in prayer carries the meaning of continuing with great intensity until the battle has been won in spirit.

Don't Stop Praying

When Paul wrote to the church in Thessalonica, he told them that they should not stop praying. How is this possible? How can you and I take care of the normal responsibilities of life and never stop praying? We do this by developing a lifestyle of prayer, allocating a time of prayer each day, and then allowing our spirits to continue praying from one end of the day to the other. ([1 Thess 5:17](#))

Seeking God

We must seek God with all our hearts, Moses prophesied on his people that they would seek God with all their hearts. ([Deut 4:29](#))

Jeremiah said the same thing: ([Jeremiah 29:12-13](#))

David also agreed: ([Ps 119:2](#))

Prayer and fasting

Should we fast? Fasting is an Old Testament practice established under the Old Covenant, and now that we are in the Age of Grace, is there no longer a need for it? Jesus said that the disciples will fast, he did not say "if". ([Lk 5:35](#))

When the demons did not leave the epileptic boy, Jesus explained to the disciples that he had not yet been able to the reason was for their unbelief, lack of faith, lack of prayer, and fasting: ([Mt 17:20-21](#))

Wrong reasons for fasting

We must not fast in an attempt to force God to listen to us. Isaiah describes this erroneous type of fasting: (Isaiah 58:3-4) We should not fast when other areas of our lives are not pleasing to God.

The choice to fasting for God

God described fasting that He delights in. (Is 58:6-7)

Four types of fasting

There are four types of fasting mentioned in the Bible.

Partial fasting

Daniel's fast was to eat no pleasant food, no meat and no wine. (Da 10:2-3)

Normal fasting

This is a fast in which you don't take food, but water or juice. It is normal for a longer fast.

• Jesus

Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness and fasted there for forty days. During this fast, we are told that he did not eat anything. (Lk 4:1-2)

Supernatural fasting

We are told of two supernatural fasts, but these, today, are not a normal example.

• Elijah

Elijah's fast was different because he was given supernatural food and he maintained himself with that food and drink for forty days.

1 Kings 19:5-8 "Then he lay down and fell asleep under the broom; but behold, an angel touched him and said to him, "Get up and eat." He looked and saw near his head a cake baked on hot stones and a pitcher of water. He ate and drank, then went back to bed. The angel of the Lord returned a second time, touched him, and said, "Get up and eat, for the way is too long for you." He got up, ate and drank; then, in the strength given to him by that food, he walked forty days and forty nights to the mountain of God, Horeb.

- **Moses**

Moses fasted for forty days and forty nights on the mountain, and God He gave the Ten Commandments. ([Deut 9:9](#)) The people worshipped the golden calf, the tablets of the commandments were broken, and Moses returned for another forty days of fasting and prayer. ([Deut 9:18](#)) Moses' eighty days of fasting were in the glory of God's presence, and it is not an example for a prolonged fast today.

Absolute fasting

An absolute fast is generally short in duration and requires that neither food nor water be touched.

- **The people of Nineveh**

When Jonah arrived in Nineveh, his message was that in forty days the city would be destroyed, the people began an absolute fast; God saw their repentance and did not destroy the city. ([Gen 3:7-10](#))

- **Queen Esther and all the Jews in Susa**

When Queen Esther heard of the threat to her people, she said that she should fast for three days and that she and her servants would do the same, after the fasting time, she would go to the king. ([Epe 4:16](#))

- **Paul**

After Paul's encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus, he made an absolute fast. ([Ac 9:9](#))

Benefits of Fasting

Demons go away ([Mt 17:21](#))

Change God's purpose ([Gen 3:10](#))

Visions Come ([Da 10:5-6](#))

Physical health is restored ([Is 58:6-8](#))

Pride is transformed into submission ([Ps 35:13](#))

Spiritual Awakening ([2 Ch 7:14](#))

With all the benefits we find in Scripture, why not fast?

God has provided the wonderful instrument of fasting, with its many benefits, as a method of bringing our bodies and souls into submission to our spirits and His Lordship.

Jesus told us to fast in secret. (Mt 6:16-18)

Practical Steps to Fasting

Some practical things to know are:

- Drink enough water is essential.
- For a partial fast, eat light food such as fresh fruit, drink water, milk or fruit juice, perhaps citrus juice mixed halfway with water.
- How much fasting is subjective between the person and God, since fasting is a commitment, a vote, is not to be taken lightly; It's best to start fasting with a meal or day from sunrise to sunset and prepare for longer periods of time.
- A long fast should be broken gradually by starting with fruit juices and semi-solid foods.

The Voice of Faith

To be effective, prayer must be based on faith, which is why we must spend time in God's presence and study what faith is and how it works. We must pray in faith for our prayers to be answered. In His mortal ministry, Jesus responded to faith, He said over and over again, "Your faith has healed you." "According to your faith..." "O woman, great is your faith." "If you have faith and do not doubt..." "Have faith in God and have faith also in me." He also said: "O you of little faith..." "Why did you doubt?" "Because of your unbelief..." "How is it that you have no faith?" "Where is your faith?" To the disciples he said, "I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail you." Everything we receive from God we receive by faith, our salvation, baptism in the Holy Spirit, gifts of the Spirit, righteousness, healings, blessings.

Faith Speaks

Faith speaks, but what does it say? The apostle Paul wrote:

Rom 10:8-9 But what does it say? "The word is with you, in your mouth and in your heart." This is the word of faith, which we preach; for if you

confess the Lord Jesus with your mouth, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Faith speaks the Word of God, if we want our prayers to be answered, we must believe, and to believe we must know the Word of God and hear His voice. Another important thing to pray and act in faith is to understand who we are in Christ and how to relate to God.

About us?

We are one being in three dimensions: Body, soul and spirit

Body - our bones, flesh and blood

Anima - our intellect, our will, our emotions (mind)

Spirit - our life, our being (heart, consciousness)

James said that the body without the spirit is dead. ([Joh 2:26](#))

Paul prayed in Thessalonians that God would sanctify us completely, spirit, soul and body. ([1 Thess 5:23](#))

Born of Spirit

Our relationship with God is in the spirit, we are born again in the spirit, many of us seek to serve God, worship Him, pray to Him from our souls, this cannot be done, if we are born of the Spirit we must approach God in the spirit. ([Joh 3:4-6](#))

John reveals to us that God is a Spirit and that we can only come to Him in spirit. ([Joh 4:23-24](#))

New Creature

We are new creatures in spirit. ([2 Co 5:17](#))

A Spirit with God

Through the new birth, we are a spirit with God, what we do with God, or for God, must be done in spirit; Our prayers, to be effective, cannot be done in the natural, only with our minds, they must also be done in the spirit. ([1 Co 6:17](#))

We must serve God with our spirits as the apostle Paul did. ([Rom 1:9](#))

In Hebrews it is revealed to us that we can please God when we come to Him in faith. ([Heb 11:6](#))

Natural and supernatural faith

Natural faith

The dictionary says that faith is a confident belief in the truth, value, or honesty of a person, idea, or thing. Faith is a natural ability in the area of our souls, for example, when we sit in a chair we have faith that will keep us. Many of us work in natural faith, all the time, but this is not the kind of faith of God revealed in the Bible.

Supernatural Faith

Supernatural faith is not based on logical proof or material evidence, but is based on a sure belief in God and His Word. Supernatural faith comes from our spirits, not from our minds; Supernatural faith believes and acts on the Word of God without asking or trying to reason.

God's Kind of Faith

The writer of the book of Hebrews has given us a wonderful chapter on faith in ([Hebrews 11](#)), it is an appeal of the faithful saints of the Old Testament. Jesus instructed the disciples to have faith in God, then he went on to describe this faith as speaking to the mountain, not doubting but believing. ([Mr 11:22-24](#))

True faith is given to us by God, who leaves no room for pride. ([Eph 2:8](#))

Since God has given each one a measure of faith, can faith grow, or does God give us everything we need at once?

Faith like a mustard seed

Jesus likened faith to a mustard seed, the smallest seed in all the earth, and later taught about the growth capacity of the mustard seed. ([Mt 17:20](#))

He spoke again about the mustard seed ([Mr 4:31-32](#))

Paul wrote that our faith increases ([2 Corinthians 10:15](#))

The apostles realized that they needed more faith and prayed: ([Lk 17:5](#))

The apostle Jude said that we could build ourselves on our faith: ([Jude 1:20](#))

Faith in our lives will be as strong as we allow it to grow over time like the mustard seed.

Faith does not hope

Hope is not faith, hope is believing that God will act sometime in the future, faith is now. If hope does not move in faith, it will keep us from receiving, "God will do.... sometime in the future" will prevent us from receiving today.

Faith not knowledge

Knowledge is good, through knowledge we can achieve a mental consensus, we can agree with our minds that the Word is truth; But knowledge without faith will never change our lives; Through faith, knowledge becomes experience. The apostle Paul explained: ([1 Co 2:9-14](#))

Faith through the Word

Paul said that faith comes by listening to the Word of God; Faith is understanding that God's Word is truer than anything we hear or see, or that it is contrary to that Word. ([Rom 10:17](#))

Faith comes through our heart attitude to hear, see, and understand in the areas of spirit; Jesus spoke of those who do not see, hear, and understand. ([Mt 13:13](#))

Faith that wins

Faith is extremely important because it conquers the world. ([1 Joh 5:4](#))

The author of our faith is Jesus. ([Heb 12:2](#))

Where is your faith? A storm came and the boat was about to sink. ([Lk 8:24-25](#)) Jesus had told them that they should go to the other side, he was in the boat with them and when the storm came, they only said, in the natural: "Master, Master we are perishing!" Jesus had to ask, "Where is your faith?" Is it in the natural or the supernatural? Our faith must be based on God's Word, in our spirits, and in our mouths. ([Rom 10:8](#))

The gift of faith

The gift of faith is a supernatural gift of the Holy Spirit that often comes through the receipt of a word of wisdom for a particular person, time, or situation; It is one of the gifts of power of the Holy Spirit and allows us to move in the work of miracles and gifts of healing.

The enemies of faith: the natural senses, unbelief, doubt, sin, lack of forgiveness, disobedience, lack of faith.

Jesus taught us to pray, but also to understand the things that prevent our prayers from being heard and answered. The reason why Jesus could pray, could speak and things were done instantly was not because He was the Son of God, the reason why His prayers were answered with such great power was the absolute purity of His life, there were no obstacles. Many times, we allow ourselves to be entangled in negative situations, even sinful ones, and then we wonder why God does not answer our prayers. The apostle Paul warned us:

Gal 6:7-8 "Do not be deceived, God cannot be mocked, for what a man sows, he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will reap corruption from the flesh, but he who sows to the Spirit will reap eternal life from the Spirit.

To become more powerful men and women of prayer, we must take time to understand and remove every obstacle. Remove obstacles!

Natural senses

Our natural senses are the strongest enemies of faith, trusting in what we see, hear and touch more than in the Word of God, we will be defeated. God's Word is true, God will do what His Word says; The words of those who do not believe, the symptoms we still see or feel in our bodies, the unpaid bills do not change the Word of God. (Rom 3:3-4)

Disbelief

When Jesus returned to His country even though He had perfect faith He could not do works there, Matthew tells us that the reason was the unbelief of the people. Unbelief is the total opposite of faith. (Mt 13:54-58)

What did Jesus say to the ruler of the synagogue when the news reached him: "Your daughter is dead?" "Just Believe" What did Jesus say to the blind ones who asked on the side of the road? "According to your faith." What did Jesus say to Martha at Lazarus' tomb? "If you believe, you will

see the glory of God!" We cannot receive answers to our prayers if we are living in doubt and unbelief. (Joh 1:5-7)

Unbelief is a strong enemy but it will not change the Word of God, it will only stop the fulfillment of the promises in our lives. In Hebrews it is written that faith is the evidence of things that are not seen and he used Noah as his example: (Heb 11:1,7)

The apostle Paul also referred to the things that are not seen: (2 Co 4:18)

Doubt and cause

Thomas had a difficult time moving from the natural to the supernatural, from unbelief to believing, he said, "If I don't see, if I don't touch, I don't believe." (Joh 20:24-29) Thomas' question to see and touch before believing has become an example for us of what not to do; From that moment he began to become an apostle of the gospel and to die a martyr, but he has also been regarded throughout history as the Thomas who doubts. Giacomo described a doubtful and vacillating person. (Jom 1:5-6) Doubt is the opposite of faith it is an act of the natural mind, doubt means to be indecisive or skeptical, to have a lack of certainty that often leads to indecision, a lack of trust, we cannot operate in faith and doubt at the same time, we cannot operate in faith and concern at the same time, they are completely opposites. There are three main reasons why a person struggles with doubt that can be recognized and addressed: sin, lack of self-esteem and falsehood. A cause of doubt is sin, often, it is that sin that we have tried to hide from the conscious part of our minds, we have mentally convinced ourselves that all is well with God but our spirits are one with God and know that it is sin; By convincing our minds of error we have become double-minded. (Jom 1:6-8) In 1 Kings we read God's promise to David for his children: (1 Kings 2:4) They were to be careful to walk before the Lord in truth with all their heart (spirit) and with all their soul (mind). To stop the doubt that enters through this area, we must locate the sin and confess it, then it is forgiven and removed. (1 Joh 1:9). One of the biggest causes of doubt is a lack of self-esteem. The most dangerous thing about our lack of self-esteem is that we think we can't do anything about it, we often hear "It was the way I was raised, and it's just the way I am." However, at salvation, we become a new creature, we become a spirit with God, a revelation of the new creation leaves no room for a negative self-image.

The apostle Paul tells us, likewise, that when we died in sin, God loved us. Probably our fathers and mothers did not love us as they should have, perhaps, they said all sorts of things that were negative and harmful, but God loved us and continues to love us. (Eph 2:4-6) The prophet Zephaniah gives us a wonderful picture of God exulting with joyful shouts.

Son 3:17 The LORD thy God is in thy midst the mighty One who saves. He will rejoice over you, in his love he will be silent, he will rejoice over you with shouts of joy.

We overcome our lack of self-esteem by studying, proclaiming, and believing God's Word in the part that deals with the subject of who we are in Christ. The third cause for doubt is a problem that is extremely prevalent today, falsehood. Many feel that there is nothing wrong with telling "little lies" or "social lies", to make things go quieter, or to safeguard someone's feelings. A person who lies, thinks that others are lying to him, because he is false, he cannot trust that others are sincere. This distrust also extends to God, since his words cannot be reliable he is incapable of trusting in the Word of God; This person may think and say that he trusts God, but in fact he cannot because of his character. King Solomon has made it very clear how God thinks about lying. (Pr 6:16-17) To prevent doubt from entering through this area, we must make a commitment to become honest, loyal children of God, doing this by confessing our past sins to God, but also, by breaking the habit of lying. We need to confess every new lie to the person we lie to. It is surprising how soon the embarrassment in doing so will teach us to think before we speak. (Jom 5:16) Faith is based on truth, over and over again we find the words "in truth" (in faithfulness) in Scripture. (Jos 24:14; 1 Sa 12:24; 1 Kings 3:6; 2 Kings 20:3; 1 Joh 3:18). God's works can only be done in truth; King David wrote: (Ps 33:4; Ps 111:7-8). Remove doubt and unbelief: When Jesus went to Jairus' house, he turned away the skeptics before the child was raised from the dead by him.

Mr 5:39-42 And when he went in, he said to them, Why are you making so much noise and weeping? The girl is not dead but sleeps". And they mocked him; but he put them all out, took with him the father, the mother of the maiden, and those who were with him, and went in to the place where the maiden lay. Then he took the girl by the hand, and said to her, "Talitha cumi"; which translated means: "Maiden, I say to you: Get up!" And

immediately the maiden got up and began to walk; she was in fact twelve years old. And they were seized with great amazement.

Lack of forgiveness

We live in a very imperfect world, we have all had wounds, abuses, rejections and slander in some way; As we have often heard, someone says, "But, they don't deserve to be forgiven." In fact, what a person deserves has nothing to do with forgiveness. God has never made our need to forgive conditional on what others do or don't do, God doesn't try to make it easier for one person than another. God's desire is to make it easier for all of us, as humanity, the more we maintain our lack of forgiveness, the more we cannot go to a better life. Lack of forgiveness keeps us in bondage to that person or situation. The only way for this bond to be broken is to forgive.

Forgiving to be forgiven

Jesus taught that our prayers cannot be answered as long as there is a lack of forgiveness in our hearts. (Mr 11:25-26). The opposite thought to our forgiving others is asking others to forgive us. Jesus didn't say if we wronged our brother (or sister in the Lord), he said if others have anything against us. (Mt 5:23-24). Jesus made forgiveness part of the Lord's Prayer and taught more about forgiving now. It could not have been clearer, "if you want God to forgive you, forgive others; If we are not walking in forgiveness towards others, we should not pray until we go and put things right. We must forgive those who have hurt us and we must ask for forgiveness of those we have hurt or who have negative feelings towards us. (Mt 6:14-15) Peter had to grow up under a system of laws, his question to Jesus was, "Is it enough to forgive seven times?" He was asking for a religious rule, Jesus' reply with "seventy times seven" was an indication that he had to develop a continuous lifestyle in forgiveness. Jesus told a parable about the importance of forgiveness. (Mt 18:23-35) We have been forgiven so much by God, our sins of the past and our failures of the present, how can we not forgive others?

Remove the barrier of sin

From the moment Adam and Eve hid themselves from God in the Garden of Eden, sin has stood as a barrier between a holy God and sinful men and women.

Is 59:2 "But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have made him hide his face from you, so that he will no longer listen to you.

Jesus paid the penalty for our sin, but we must take advantage of His providence to forgive and remove sin. Many books have been written about prayer, but men and women have an enormous ability to convince themselves that sin, their own in particular, is understood and tolerated by God. This is not as Solomon wrote:

Pr 14:12 "There is a way that seems straight to a man, but it leads to death.

God cannot tolerate sin, it is contrary to His nature and His Word, a holy God cannot stand in the presence of sin, and His grace is not automatically tolerant and ready to forgive sin.

Rom 6:1-2 What shall we say then? Shall we remain in sin so that grace may abound? Certainly not! We who have died to sin, how would we still live in it?

Sin in our lives in any form will stop our prayers from being heard.

Confess and be forgiven

How do we get rid of sin in our lives? By being honest with ourselves and with God, calling sin for what it is and confessing it to Him. We can't excuse ourselves: "Well, I didn't mean that way, but..." We can't say, "It's just a small thing." To be forgiven and washed away from unrighteousness, we must face our sin, honestly, and confess it to God.

1 John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

If our prayers are not answered, we should take some time to find out the reasons, perhaps it will not be a sin but rather a lack of knowledge, a lack of faith or not asking according to God's will.

Barriers to a prayer: Lack of knowledge, unbelief, pride, iniquity, disobedience, theft, murder, committing adultery, swearing falsely, serving other gods, idols in the heart, all will cause our prayers to remain unanswered.

Iniquities are sins that have passed from generation to generation.

Jer 11:10-11 "They have returned to the iniquities of their ancient fathers, who refused to listen to my words; they also went after other gods, to serve them; the house of Israel and the house of Judah have broken the covenant that I had made with their fathers. Therefore, thus says the Lord: "Behold, I am bringing calamity upon them, from which they will not be able to escape. They will cry out to me, but I will not listen to them.

David wrote:

Ps 66:18 "If I had plotted evil in my heart, the Lord would not have listened to me.

What did God say to Jeremiah? Do not intercede or shout, or pray for them because I will not listen to you. "They" refers to those who steal, kill, commit adultery, swear falsely, serve other gods, and then go to the house of the Lord and say, "We have been delivered from these things." It could be like saying, "We are under grace and not under the law. Can we sin, and God won't forgive us?" That might be like saying, "I know the Bible that says it's wrong, but God knows my situation."

Jer 7:9-10, 13, 15-16 "You steal, you kill, you commit adultery, you swear falsely, you offer incense to Baal, you go after other gods whom you did not know before, and then you come and present yourselves before me, in this house on which my name is called. You say, "We are saved!" So you commit all these abominations. But because you have done all these things, says the Lord, "because I have spoken to you, and spoken from the morning, and you have not heard, because I have called you and you have not answered, I will drive you out of my presence, as I have driven out all your brethren, all the seed of Ephraim." Do not intercede for this people, do not make supplications or prayers for them, do not insist on me, for I will not hear you.

Remove idols from the heart! Anything in our lives that is put in place of the importance that God should have, becomes an idol. God must have the first place in our lives.

Eze 14:3 "Son of man, these men have set up idols in their hearts, and have set themselves before the stumbling block that causes them to fall into their iniquity; how could I be consulted by them?

To be proud; God will not listen to the proud.

Job 35:12 "There they cry out, but he does not answer, because of the pride of the wicked."

Jom 4:6 "But he gives us greater grace; therefore Scripture says: "God resists the proud and gives grace to the humble".

To be deaf; God will not listen to those who close their ears to the cry of the poor.

Pr 21:13 "He who shuts his ear to the cry of the poor will cry out also, and will not be answered him."

To be disobedient; Disobedience to the Word of God is very serious, Isaiah said it was like the sin of witchcraft, God will not listen to the disobedient.

1 Sa 15:23 "For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and stubbornness is like the worship of idols and domestic gods." Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, he also rejects you as king."

Zech 7:11-13 "But they refused to take heed, and they put up a rebellious shoulder, and they stopped their ears so as not to hear. They made their hearts hard as a diamond, so as not to listen to the law and the words which the Lord of hosts addressed to them by his Spirit, by the prophets of old; therefore there was great indignation on the part of the Lord of hosts. "Just as he was calling, and they were not listening, so they shall call, and I will not hear," says the Lord of hosts.

Pr 28:9 "If anyone turns his ears away so as not to hear the law, his own prayer is an abomination."

Dishonoring the wife or husband; The relationship between husband and wife must to be an earthly picture of the relationship between Jesus and the church, the body of Christ. Peter spoke of this relationship, when it is not right our prayers are hindered.

1 Pt 3:7 "You husbands also live with your wives with due regard for the woman, as to a more delicate vessel. Honour them, for they too are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

If there is something for which our conscience reproaches us, we will not be able to pray confidently until there is forgiveness. A pure conscience and faith are bound together and cannot be separated.

1 Tim 1:5 The purpose of this assignment is love that comes from a pure heart, a good conscience, and sincere faith.

Lack of knowledge

In the books of Isaiah and Hosea we read some very provocative expositions. (Is 5:13; Hos 4:6). If we do not know what God's Word says about a situation, how can we have faith? True faith can only be based on God's Word, and knowledge is based on knowing God and His righteousness.

Pride and pretensions

Jesus contrasted the prayer of the proud with that of the humble. (Lk 18:9-14)

Prayer of faith, in agreement and prayer on the Word

Prayer of faith

James spoke of the prayer of faith that would save the sick person, and this specific type of prayer is mentioned only once in the scriptures.

Jom 5:14-15 Are any of you sick? Let him call the elders of the church, and they shall pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord, and the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall heal him; and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him.

What is the prayer of faith? It is a prayer that is solidly based on God's promises and prayed in faith, and it is also based on two or more people agreeing. When the prayer of faith is concluded, there is a testimony of the Holy Spirit that confirms it. The truth of God's Word is much more real to us than symptoms or circumstances, this faith comes from our spirits, not our minds.

From the moment this faith comes, we remain in faith on the Word of God that is fulfilled.

Power of Agreement

Power and authority are multiplied when two or more believers unite their faith in a prayer of agreement.

Deut 32:30 How could one pursue a thousand and two put ten thousand to flight, but because their Rock hath sold them, and the LORD hath delivered them up to the enemy?

Prayers in agreement

Prayer in agreement is based on the teaching of Jesus.

Mt 18:19-20 "Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth to ask for anything, it will be granted to them by my Father who is in heaven. For wherever two or three are gathered together in my name, I am in the midst of them.

To be in agreement, we need to know what the situation is and what God's response is. For example, we cannot pray in agreement with someone who has "a retracted request" (refused). Perhaps one of the greatest benefits of moving in a prayer in agreement is that it leads us to focus our prayers on certain goals. Let us remember the blind beggars who cried out to Jesus: "Have mercy on us, O Lord, Son of David!" What did Jesus reply? "What do you want me to do to you?" Did they want money? Did they want a job? Did they want to be healed? In what did they have faith? We need to be specific in our requests, because this helps us focus our faith for maximum results.

Praying God's Word

The writer of the book of Hebrews tells us that God's Word is living and powerful.

Heb 4:12 For the word of God is alive and effective, sharper than any two-edged sword, and penetrates even to the division of soul and spirit, of joints and marrow, and is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

The prophet Jeremiah said that God watches over His word to carry it out.

Jer 1:12 And the LORD said unto me, Thou hast seen well, for I keep watch over my word to bring it to effect.

The prophet Isaiah gave us a great revelation about what happens when the Word of God goes before us.

Is 55:11 "So shall my word come forth from my mouth: it shall not return to me empty, unless it has accomplished that which I desire, and fully accomplished that for which I sent it."

The Word of God will not return empty, it will accomplish what it has been sent to do; When we pray the Word in a particular situation, we should take time to find God's promises that apply to it. It is good to remember God's promises so that we can move through them as we pray. God never said that we should close our eyes and pray, the only reason to do so is to avoid distractions so that we can focus on Him.

Prayer for Healing

Our prayer should be like this: "Father, I thank you for Your Son Jesus Christ who was pierced for my transgressions, crushed for my iniquities, the chastisement for my peace fell upon Him, and by His stripes I am healed. Thank you that it is your desire above all else that I be in good health, I believe and receive the full manifestation of my healing right now in the name of Jesus! (Is 53:5; Gr 30:17; 3 Jn 2)

Prayer for our unconverted loved ones and for their training

For the sake of those who are not close to the Lord, we can pray: "Father, I thank You that You have said that You will not delay the fulfillment of Your promise, but that You are patient with us, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. God You do not want him (to say the person's name) to perish, I beg You to prick his heart to repentance, repentance and to be able to welcome You into his life, through the sacrifice of Your Son Jesus and voluntarily renouncing the kingdom of darkness to enter Your Kingdom; Thank you for your promise that if I believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, I and my whole household will be saved. Father, Your Word says that if I teach the child in the way to go, when he is old he will not depart from it. Thank you for..... (children, grandchildren, etc.) give me wisdom and understanding, that I may teach them in Your Word" (2 Peter 3:9; Ac 16:31; Pr 22:6)

Prayer for Finances

We can pray like this: "I thank you, Father, that through your Word you reassure us in every difficulty of our lives; Your Son Jesus is my Pastor and I lack nothing. I believe in Your Word and I receive now the His benefits, thank you Father in the name of Jesus. (Mt 6:31,33; Ps 23:1)

Praying in Authority

Many prayers go unanswered because we are pressuring God to do something He has commanded us to do; We have had the concept that prayer is limited to asking, but a very important part of prayer is listening. When we listen to God, he will tell us what to do, what to say, what to command; Prayer is asking, listening, obeying. These are the same elements that we find in military life, you ask the commander what to do, you listen to the orders he gives and then you obey. It is God's desire that believers begin to move in the life-changing authority, He is looking for men and women who will move in authority, completely under His control.

Practical steps

The prayer of authority will be based on listening to God through the gifts of revelation of the Holy Spirit; Spoken forcefully, through the gift of faith given by the Holy Spirit. Strong, authoritative prayers should never come from a personal attitude, for example, "It would be nice if... it wouldn't rain on Sunday before the church picnic." Some would even say, "In Jesus' name I command the time to be beautiful, Sunday." Alt! Prayers of authority can never come from our personal desires or wills. Elijah stopped the rain that would not begin to fall if he did not say so, but he was totally under God's direction.

1 Kings 17:1 Elijah the Tishbite, one of the inhabitants of Gilead, said to Ahab, "As the Lord God of Israel lives, in whose presence I stand, there will be neither dew nor rain in these years, except at my word."

The apostle James referred to this time:

Jom 5:17-18 Elijah was a man who was subject to the same passions as we did, yet he prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months. Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth its fruit.

He prayed and heard from God, and then declared with authority, "There will be no rain in these years, except at my word."

Jesus Our Example

In everything we do, Jesus must always be our example; On earth, Jesus did everything that the first Adam was created to do. We can truly say, "If Jesus did it, we can do it too!" We can do this through His name and through the power of the Holy Ghost.

Authorized by the Holy Spirit

Jesus did not perform miracles before He was baptized and before the Holy Spirit came upon Him.

Lk 4:14-19 "And Jesus in the power of the Spirit returned to Galilee... and, as he was accustomed to do on the Sabbath, he entered the synagogue and got up to read... And when he opened the book, he found that passage where it was written: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he has sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim release to the captives and the recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty the oppressed, and to preach the acceptable year of the Lord."

We too must be authorized by the Holy Spirit.

Jesus Gave Authority to All Believers

During His ministry on earth, Jesus had authority over demons, sickness and infirmity, the human body, creation, the elements of nature, and even death.

Jn 14:12 "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; indeed he will make greater than these, because I am going to the Father.

Mt 10:8 "Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons; freely you have received, freely give.

Lk 10:19 "Behold, I have given you power to trample down serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing can hurt you.

Jesus took back the authority that Satan had robbed from Adam and Eve and gave it to his followers, the believers, to us!

Authority over demons

Jesus had authority over demons

Mt 8:31-32 "And the demons prayed to him, saying, 'If you cast us out, let us go into that herd of swine.'" And he said to them, "Go!" So they went out and went away in that herd of pigs; and behold, all that flock of pigs rushed from the cliff into the sea, and they died in the waters.

Jesus did not ask God to cast out demons, but he said with authority: Go!

Authority on sickness and infirmity

The leper came to Jesus and was cleansed

Mk 1:40-41 "And a leper came to him, and beseeching him, he fell into kneeling before him, and said to him, "If you want, you can cleanse me." And Jesus, moved with pity, stretched out his hand, touched him and said to him, "Yes, I will, be clean!"

Jesus did not ask God to perform a miracle and heal this man, but said: Be clean!

Authority over the human body

A man with a withered hand approached Jesus

Mk 3:3,5 "And he said to the man who had the withered hand, 'Arise in the midst of all!' ... Stretch out your hand!" And he stretched it out, and his hand was healed like the other.

Again we do not see Jesus asking God to perform a supreme act and heal this man, in a supernatural way. He said, "Stretch out your hand."

Authority on creation

Jesus had authority over the fig tree, a part of creation.

Mt 21:19 And when he saw a fig tree by the wayside, he came near it, but found nothing in it but leaves. and he said to him, "Let no fruit grow of you again for ever!" And immediately the fig tree dried up.

Authority over the elements of nature

Jesus spoke to the wind and the sea, and they obeyed Him.

Mr 4:37-39 And there was a great windstorm, and the waves were beating upon the boat, so that it was filled. In the meantime he was sleeping in the stern, on a pillow. They woke him up and said to him, "Master, do you not care that we perish?" And he awoke, and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Be quiet and be still." And the wind stopped and it became very calm.

Authority on death

Jesus stood in front of Lazarus' tomb and took authority over death. Not even time got the better of Him, in fact Lazarus had been dead for four days, because He is the Lord of time.

Joh 11:43-44 He cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" Then the dead man came out, with his hands and feet bound with swaddling clothes and with his face wrapped in a towel. Jesus said to them, "Untie him and let him go."

The Voice of Authority

We have noted how concise Jesus' words were in his practical acts. Jesus said, "Go." "Be clean." "Stretch out your hand." "May no fruit grow from you anymore." "May there be peace!" "Lazarus, come out!"

The centurion

When the centurion came to Jesus, he said, "Just say a word, and my servant will be healed." (Mt 8:8-10) The centurion recognized the authority in Jesus because he too was under authority. Note the brevity of the centurion's examples, "Go," "Come," "Do this."

Joh 4:46-53 So Jesus came again to Cana in Galilee, where he had turned water into wine. Now there was a royal official, whose son was sick at Capernaum. When he heard that Jesus had come from Judea to Galilee, he went to him and begged him to come down and heal his son, because he was about to die. Then Jesus said to him, "Unless you see signs and wonders, you do not believe." The royal official said to him, "Sir, come down before my boy dies." Jesus said to him, "Go, your son, live!" And the man believed the word that Jesus had spoken to him, and he went away. Just as he was coming down, his servants came to meet him and informed him, saying, "Your son lives." And he asked them at what hour he had been better; they said to him, "Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him." Then the father recognized that it was precisely at that hour when Jesus had said to him: "Your son lives"; and he believed with all his house.

In these two passages we also see that Jesus did not have the problem of distance at all, His Word was enough, because He is the Lord of space. We can say that his mission in the body was not limited as many today make us believe when they say that he ascended to heaven as a substitute for the Holy Spirit, so it is everywhere. The limitation was not for Him, if

anything it was for those who lived far away and it was difficult to reach Him. But as we see today, he sent his fillings of the Holy Spirit to reach the whole world.

Be concise

The voice of authority is concise, let us remember the words of Jesus:

Mt 6:7-8 "Now when you pray, do not use useless repetition as the Gentiles do, for they think they will be heard by the great number of their words. Do not be like them, therefore, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

Ec 5:2 Be not hasty with your mouth, and your heart not make haste to speak a word before God, for He is in heaven and you on earth; therefore let your words be few.

Bible Examples

- Daniel made a prayer that is classic in its brevity

From 9:19 Hear, O Lord; Lord, forgive; Lord, pay attention and work. Do not delay, for your own sake, O my God, for your name is called upon your city and your people."

- Moses also made prayers that were wonderfully concise

Nu 10:35-36 "When the ark departed, Moses said, 'Arise, O LORD, let your enemies be scattered, and let those who hate you flee from you.' And when he stopped, he said, "Return, O Lord, to the myriads of thousands of Israel!"

- Another example of a short prayer is that of Elijah who raised a child from the dead.

1 Kings 17:21-22 "Then he stretched out three times over the child and called upon the Lord, saying, O Lord my God, I pray thee, cause the soul of this child to return to him." The LORD heard Elijah's voice: the child's soul returned to him, and he came back to life.

Elijah was certainly a man who knew authority, and after the people of Israel had waited for the priests of Baal to jump, shout, beg, and carve their bodies all day long, they saw that nothing had happened. Then Elijah had prepared the altar and the sacrifice, and he came near and said... He

didn't scream, he didn't jump, he didn't assert himself, he didn't cut himself, he prayed with about sixty words, at once.

1 Kings 18:36-38 "At the hour of the offering, the prophet Elijah came and said, 'O LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel, that I am your servant, and that I have done all these things at your command. Answer me, O Lord, answer me, that this people may know that you, O Lord, are God, and that you have made their hearts return to you.'" Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt offering, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and dried up the water that was in the ditch.

The Men God Chooses

The humble

Moses was raised as the son of Pharaoh, he knew wealth and authority, he fled into the wilderness and God appeared to him in a burning bush. Moses, of course, moved in authority, brought the plagues to Egypt, parted the Red Sea, made water flow from the rock in the desert, spoke to God on the mountain, was so close to God that his face was transformed.

Nu 12:3 "Now Moses was a very meek man, more than anyone else on the face of the earth.

Because Moses was so humble, God could allow him to move in the powerful supernatural authority.

The Servant

Jesus said:

Mt 20:26-27 But it will not be so among you; but whoever wants to become great among you should be your servant; and whoever wants to be first among you is to be your slave.

The imitator of Christ

They participated in the Passover when Jesus, the Son of God, the only one who faced the horrible betrayal and crucifixion on the cross, washed the disciples' feet. Jesus washed Judas' feet even though He knew Judas was on the verge of betraying Him; Jesus had to prepare Himself mentally and emotionally for His trial and death. Why did he take time that evening

to wash their feet? He did it as an example for them and for us; The disciples were to be servants of one another, we too must be servants of one another.

Jn 13:13-15 "You call me teacher and Lord, and you say well, because I am. If, therefore, I, the Lord and the Master, have washed your feet, you also must wash one another's feet. For I have set an example for you, so that you also should do as I have done.

The available

We read in the scriptures that God does not choose strong and valiant men, but weak men with a heart predisposed to obey, we can see in the chosen men both their victories and their failures. Elijah was one of the most powerful men at that time, yet the apostle James wrote of him that he was a man with a nature like ours.

Jom 5:17 Elijah was a man subjected to the same passions as we were, yet he prayed earnestly that it would not rain...

The prepared jar

We can prepare ourselves and be vessels of honor, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work.

2 Tim 2:20-21 "Now in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and earth; some are to honor, others to dishonor. If, therefore, a man cleanses himself of these things, he will be a vessel of honor, sanctified and useful for the service of his master, prepared for every good work.

Power to Pray in Jesus' Name

The Name of Jesus Is Above All Names

Phil 2:8-11 And when he found himself in the outward likeness of a man, he humbled himself, becoming obedient unto death, and death on a cross. Therefore God also has sovereignly exalted him and given him a name that is above every name, so that in the name of Jesus every knee of the creatures in heaven, earthly and subterranean may bow and every tongue may confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Authority in His Name

The authority Jesus gave the disciples was to use His name.

Mr 16:15-18 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel unto every creature; he who believed and was baptized will be saved; but he who has not believed will be condemned. And these are the signs that will accompany those who have believed: in my name they will cast out demons, they will speak new tongues; they will take snakes in their hands even if they drink something deadly, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will be healed."

The first miracle the disciples performed after Jesus returned to the Father was in His name.

Acts 3:1-8 And Peter and John went up together to the temple about the ninth hour, the hour of prayer. And there was a man lame from birth, who was daily brought and laid at the door of the temple, called Bella, to ask alms from those who entered the temple. When he saw Peter and John about to enter the temple, he asked them for alms. Then Peter, with John, fixing his eyes on him, said, "Look at us." And he looked at them attentively, hoping to receive something from them. But Peter said, "I have neither silver nor gold, but what I have I give you: in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, get up and walk!" And, taking him by the right hand, he lifted him up; and at that moment his feet and ankles were strengthened. And with a leap he rose to his feet and began to walk; and he went into the temple with them, walking, leaping, and praising God.

Peter spoke with authority, "In the name of Jesus Christ, arise and walk." He did not ask God to heal man.

We must do everything we do in the name of Jesus.

Cl 3:17 "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do all things in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

War prayers

Jesus said that he was doing only what he had seen the Father do.

Jn 5:19 "Then Jesus answered and said to them, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, that the Son can do nothing of himself, except what he sees the Father doing; for the things that the Father does, the Son also does.

To operate in God's powerful authority for us and for that world that so desperately needs, we must do only what the Father tells us to do, we must put aside our own desires; We must put aside everything that would prevent us from knowing His will, we must work in the power of the Holy Spirit just as Jesus did. We must pray in the Spirit before we know what His will is and be the voice of faith that proclaims God's will before us in our lives.

Three warnings

These are three caveats we need to remember.

- God will never tell us absolutely to say or do anything that is contrary to His written Word; The Word is God and God can never contradict himself.

Joh 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

God will never tell us to say or do anything that is for our own glory or interest. One of the temptations that satan brought to Jesus was precisely this, Jesus could have proved that he was the Son of God precisely by an action, he could have avoided the cross and he could have succeeded to the government of the world without any sacrifice.

Mt 4:5-6 "Then the devil carried him into the holy city, laid him on the edge of the temple, and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, 'He will give command to his angels concerning you; and they will carry you upon their hands, that you may not strike with your foot into any stone.'"

- God will never tell us to take authority over another person, violating his free will, God will allow us, at the right time, to take authority over demons who control another person.

The Gates will not prevail

We are at war against demonic forces, when Jesus mentioned the word "church" for the first time, He said that the gates of Hades would not prevail over it, these gates represent the governments of hell. Jesus said that demonic forces would not prevail over His church.

Mt 16:18 "And I also say to you, that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell will not be able to overcome it."

Binding and untying

Jesus has given us the power to bind and loose.

Mt 16:19 "And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

To bind means to limit satan or a demon who lords over a particular situation on which God has led us to lead a spiritual battle, we must bind the strong man and take back what he has stolen from us.

Mt 12:28-29 "But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come among you. That is, how can someone enter the house of the strong man and steal his goods, if he does not first bind the strong man? Then only will he succeed in plundering his house.

Jesus gave us an example of binding and loosing.

Lk 13:11-12,16 "And behold, there was a woman who had been in a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years, and she was all bent over, and could not by any means make herself straight. And when Jesus saw her, he called her to him and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity." Should not she then be loosed from this bond, on the Sabbath, she who is the daughter of Abraham and whom Satan had bound for eighteen years?"

As believers, we have been given kingdoms of authority where we live and are sent by God, in these realms, we have authority to both bind and loose. Through loud prayers of authority, we can unleash God's power and ability to work on earth.

Combat against principalities

We should always remember that our fight is not against other human beings, we fight against the forces of hell.

Eph 6:12 "For our wrestling is not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the world of darkness of this age, against the evil spirits in the heavenly places."

Tearing down the fortresses

The weapons of our battle are the name of Jesus, the blood of Jesus and the Word of God, these are the weapons of the spirit and they are powerful.

2 Corinthians 10:4-5 "Because the weapons of our warfare are not fleshly, but powerful in God to destroy strongholds, that we may destroy arguments and every loftiness that exalts itself against the knowledge of God and make every thought subject to the obedience of Christ.

Taking the Kingdom with Strength

In our prayers, we must advance the kingdom of God with strength, we must say boldly and authoritatively, "Thy kingdom come! Thy will be done on earth as it is done in heaven." Jesus is waiting! In the Psalms, David prophesied:

Ps 110:1 The Lord says unto my Lord, Sit at my right hand, until I make thy enemies thy footstool.

Matthew, Mark, and Luke remembered Jesus quoting these words of David. (Lk 20:42-43)

After the coming of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, Peter preached his first sermon, and three thousand souls were added to the church. In this sermon, Peter also quoted David (Ac 2:34-35). In Hebrews we find this prophecy of David.

Heb 10:12-13 But He, having offered forever one sacrifice for sins, sat down at the right hand of God, waiting only for his enemies to be set as his footstool.

Six times our attention is called to this one truth. Why? We know that Jesus is interceding for us in heaven, but we also understand that He is waiting for us to do something. He is waiting for His enemies to be made His footstool, and to be put under His feet!

God's Intercession and Displeased Heart

In some scriptures, God's sorry heart is revealed as he seeks someone to intercede. In Ezekiel, God was looking for a man to intercede but found no one.

Eze 22:30 "I have sought among them a man who would build a wall, and stand in the breach before me for the land, that I might not destroy it, but I did not find him."

In Chronicles, God's sorry heart for His people.

2 Ch 7:14 "If my people, upon whom my name is called, humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn back from their evil ways, I will hear from heaven, and forgive their sin, and heal their land."

Jesus told the disciples that the harvest was great but the laborers few; What were they to do? Pray!

Lk 10:2 And he said to them, The harvest is great, but the laborers are few; pray therefore to the Lord of the harvest to urge the labourers into his harvest.

There are many verses in the Bible about intercession compared to all other types of prayer; The first examples of intercessory prayer start with the book of Job. The Patriarchs interceded for their families, the religious leaders of the country interceded for their country and the people, the priests interceded, Jesus interceded, the apostles interceded. We must apply these teachings and intercede for our families, governing authorities, and authorities in the body of Christ.

Definition of intercession

Intercession means going before God on behalf of another person. True intercession comes from the depths of our being, from having such an intimate personal relationship with God that we can feel His interests, His desires, and then as He guides us, unleash His power in the lives of others. Intercession is done for the people who need it and must be the priestly function of every believer. Intercessors are men and women to whom God can reveal His secrets and plans for a family, a church, or a nation.

Practical Steps of Intercession

There are six basic steps that are good to remember:

- Be specific, don't pray without a purpose.
- Seek God's promises that fit the need and base prayers on them, this will keep prayer in line with God's will.

- Allow the Holy Spirit to pray through us.
- Do not base prayers on the benevolence of a person, justice is based on the position of the believer in Christ, always intercede on the basis of God's grace and mercy.
- Do not try to control people in prayer or make decisions for them, God will never violate their free will and we must not allow this to be done either way.
- Be persistent, don't stop!

satan's Strategy

satan has a plan of attack for every believer who moves in God-led intercession, he will seek either to alter what God reveals or to deceive the intercessor into usurping a position of command or even control. An intercessor must be constantly on guard against an attitude of judgment or a spirit of condemnation or control.

Biblical Examples of Intercession

One of the best ways to learn how to intercede is by studying Bible examples.

Jesus intercedes for us

Jesus is always our best example.

Our High Priest

The priests of the Old Testament represent a picture of the intercessor, they stood between man and God making sacrifices for the sins of the people. Jesus is our High Priest and our example of how to pray for others, as he continues to intercede for us in heaven.

Heb 7:25 "Wherefore he is also able to fully save those who come to God through him, always living to intercede for them."

Our lawyer

The dictionary says that a lawyer is one who speaks, defends or argues in favor of..., one who defends the favor of another; a supporter or defender. Jesus is more so for us.

1 Jn 2:1 "My little children, I write these things to you that you may not sin; and if anyone has sinned, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, the righteous.

He expressed his heart of displeasure to God through forgiveness

Through Jesus we have two examples that show us the heart that cries out to God. The first was Jesus weeping over the people of Jerusalem.

Lk 13:34 "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to you. How many times have I wanted to gather your children as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you did not want to!

Jesus, despite His great love, did not control them, He said, "But you did not want to!" The second great example occurred while Jesus was hanging on the cross.

Lk 23:33-34 "And when they came to the place called the place of the Skull, there they crucified him and the evildoers... And Jesus said: "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do".

The people of Jerusalem had killed the prophets and stoned the messengers, but Jesus' only desire was to keep them under the wings of His protection, even when they had crucified Him, His prayer was, "Father, forgive them." It is important when we are interceding that we do not get caught up in Satan's wiles, no matter how much God shows us what is wrong, we do not have to judge or condemn, but instead use that knowledge for intercession.

Job interceded through forgiveness

The book of Job is considered the oldest in the Bible, Job is a wonderful example of an intercessor. When calamities befell Job, his friends came, but they thought ill of him, criticized him, and tried to calculate in their minds why such horrible things could happen, they were considerate, but they began to condemn. When the time of trial was over, God told them to offer a sacrifice and then humble themselves and go to the one they had criticized and ask to intercede for them.

Job 42:8-10 "Now take seven bulls and seven rams with you, and go to my servant Job, and offer a burnt offering for yourselves. My servant Job will pray for you; and so for his sake I shall not treat you according to your

folly, because you have not spoken of me righteously, as my servant Job did." Eliphaz of Teman and Bildad of Shuah and Zophar of Naamath went and did as the Lord commanded them; and the LORD looked upon Job. When Job had prayed for his friends, the Lord restored him to his former state; so the Lord returned to Job twice as much as all that he had possessed.

Job always interceded for his family, when difficult times came and he could not understand God's plan, he still continued; During this time he wrote:

Job 13:15 Behold, he will kill me, I have no hope; yet I will defend my conduct before him.

Even though his friends maligned him at the worst time of his life, after admitting his sin and asking God for forgiveness, he forgave them and interceded for them, then God restored everything and gave him twice as much as he had lost. Job did not forgive his friends in order to receive great blessings, however, the Word says that God restored his losses when he submitted to God and prayed for his friends. Great blessings come to us when we forgive those who have wronged us and intercede for them.

Abraham interceded on God's promises

When God decided to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah, he first went to Abraham.

Ge 18:17-21 "And the Lord said, 'Will I conceal from Abraham what I am about to do, for Abraham must become a great and mighty nation, and in him shall all the nations of the earth be blessed? For I have chosen him, that he may command his sons in his house after him to follow the way of the Lord, doing righteousness and fairness, so that the Lord may do for Abraham the thing he promised him. And the LORD said, Since the cry that goes up from Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grievous, I will come down to see if they have really done according to the cry that came to me; if not, I will know.'"

Abraham interceded: "Lord, will you spare the city for fifty righteous people, for forty-five, for forty, for thirty, for twenty, for ten? And God agreed, "I will not destroy it for the sake of ten people." Why did the Lord speak to Abraham before destroying the two cities? For God had already

promised that in him, that is, in Abraham, all nations would be blessed, and since his nephew Lot lived in the city of Sodom, he needed his agreement.

Moses interceded on God's promises

Moses was on the mountain with God when the people of Israel rebelled.

Ex 32:7-10 "Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Go, come down, for your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt, have become corrupt; they soon strayed from the road I had ordered them to follow; they made themselves a calf of molten metal, and bowed down before it, offered sacrifices to it, and said, "O Israel, this is your god who brought you out of the land of Egypt." And the LORD said unto Moses, I have seen this people, and behold, they are a stiff-necked people. Now therefore, let me do it, that my anger may be kindled against them and consume them; but I will make a great nation out of you"

"Let me do it, Moses, that I may destroy them." Why does God say, "Let me do it"? Because here too, because of God's promise to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob to extend their descendants like the stars in heaven, he sought an agreement with him. In fact, Moses reminded God of His promise and preferred to save the people instead of replacing them with his descendants.

Ex 32:11-14 "Then Moses pleaded with the Lord his God, and said, 'Why, O Lord, should your anger be kindled against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a strong hand? For the Egyptians would say, "He brought them out to harm them, to kill them in the mountains, and to exterminate them from the face of the earth!" Calm the heat of your anger and suffer from the evil with which you threaten your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac and Israel your servants, to whom you swore by yourself, saying to them: "I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven; I will give to your descendants all this land of which I have spoken to you, and they will possess it forever.'" And the Lord repented of the evil he had told his people to do.

Moses' Sorry Heart Begs for God's Forgiveness

God said He would destroy the children of Israel, Moses' anguish at that moment is beyond the ability of most of us to understand. Why was his

heart sorry? "Lord, if you cannot forgive them, erase my name from Your book."

Exodus 32:32-33 Nevertheless, forgive their sin now! If not, please delete me from your book that you have written!" The Lord answered Moses, "He who has sinned against me, I will blot him out of my book.

God agreed to allow the people of Israel to live, but then said, "I will not go up among you."

Exodus 33:2-3 "I will send an angel before you... for I will not go up among you, because you are a stiff-necked people, and I will not have to destroy you on the way."

When God told Moses that His presence would no longer go with them, Moses' sorry heart said, "Leave us here!" Moses would not have left without God's presence.

Exodus 33:15 And Moses said unto him, If thy presence cometh not with me, let us not depart from here.

Intercession Our Privilege and Responsibility

Interceding for Spiritual Authorities

We must pray for the ministers of the Gospel and for all the leaders of each local church, because satan can hurt many people when a minister falls. The attacks are much stronger against ministers precisely because Satan wants to weaken the effectiveness of fraternal communion. We have a responsibility to pray for ministers in the body of Christ.

Intercede to make ministers with frankness

Paul asked this prayer of the believers in Ephesus.

Eph 6:19 "And also for me, that when I open my mouth, I may be given to speak boldly, that I may make known the mystery of the gospel."

Interceding to open the doors to the Gospel

Paul asked this prayer of the believers in Colossae.

Cl 4:3 "Praying at the same time also for us, that God may open the doors of the word to us, that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ..."

Intercede so that the Word may be glorified

Paul asked this prayer of believers in Thessalonica.

1 Thess 3:1-2 "For the rest, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may spread speedily and be glorified, as it is among you, and that we may be delivered from perverse and wicked men...

Interceding to live righteously

Some disciples asked for this prayer.

Heb 13:18 "Pray for us, because we believe that we have a good conscience, desiring to conduct ourselves uprightly in all things."

Interceding for the political authorities

We must pray for our politicians so that we can lead a quiet and peaceful life.

1 Tim 2:1-4 "Therefore I exhort you first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgiving be made for all men, for kings and for all those in authority, that we may lead a quiet and quiet life in all godliness and propriety. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour, who wills that all men should be saved, and that they should come to the knowledge of the truth.

The person who enters into a relationship of prayer for his nation may be able to accomplish more than those who are in government; God will hear the voice of His people.

2 Ch 7:13-14 "When I shut up heaven and there is no more rain, when I command the locusts to devour the land, when I send the plague to my people, if my people, upon whom my name is called, humble themselves and pray, and seek my face, and turn back from their evil ways, I will hear from heaven, I will forgive his sin and heal his country.

Intercede for the city where we live

We must pray for the peace of the city where we live for our own good.

Grub 29:7 "Seek the good of the city where I have led you into captivity, and pray to the Lord for it, for your welfare depends on its welfare.

Interceding for those who persecute us

When we can pray for people who have caused us harm or wronged us, we know that we have truly forgiven them.

Mt 5:44 "But I say to you, Love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who mistreat you and persecute you.

Lk 6:28 "Bless those who curse you, and pray for those who mistreat you."

Interceding for the workers of the multitudes in the nations

Jesus asked this prayer of the disciples.

Lk 10:2 And he said to them, The harvest is great, but the laborers are few; pray therefore to the Lord of the harvest to urge the labourers into his harvest.

Ps 2:8 Ask me, and I will give you the nations for your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for your possession.

Intercede for Israel

There is a special blessing in praying for God's chosen people and in soliciting His purposes that concern them.

Ps 122:6-7 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem! May those who love you prosper. Let there be peace within your walls and prosperity in your palaces!

Interceding for New Converts

We must pray for those we lead to Christ.

1 Thess 3:9-10 For what thanks can we give to God for you, for all the joy we have because of you before our God, praying earnestly, night and day, that we may see your face and accomplish the things that are still lacking in your faith?

Interceding for all the saints

We must pray for our brothers and sisters scattered throughout the world.

Eph 6:18 "Praying at all times with every kind of prayer and supplication in the Spirit, watching for this purpose with all perseverance and prayer for all the saints."

Interceding for one another

Jom 5:16 "Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed; the prayer of the righteous, done effectively, can do much.

Interceding for the apostate (the one who falls into error)

Instead of judging, criticizing, or simply pitying those who fall, we must pray for them.

Ga 6:1-2 "Brethren, if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, lift him up in a spirit of meekness. But take good heed to yourself, lest you be tempted also. Bear one another's burdens, and thus you will fulfill the law of Christ.

Intercession for prisoners

Heb 13:3 "Remember the prisoners, as if you were in prison with them; and of those who are mistreated, as if you were ill-treated too!

Praying for oneself to be a blessing for others

It is not selfish to pray for oneself because while we receive blessings from God, we will be a blessing to others.

1 Chr 4:10 And Jabesh called upon the God of Israel, saying, Bless me, I pray thee; it enlarges my boundaries; be your hand with me and preserve me from evil so that I do not have to suffer!" And God granted him what he had asked for.

Intercession for all men

We must take time to intercede always, unceasingly, at all times, for the needs we see around us, This is one of God's greatest calls to the body of Christ today, to care for those around us, to intercede for them. Pray for them in the Holy Spirit and then pray as God leads in our natural language. We must abide in Him and His Word must abide in us before we can ask for anything we desire. How many have deceived themselves and others into thinking that their sins were covered by grace? That no matter what they have done, God will forgive them and things can continue as before? This is not true, Jesus said:

Mt 6:24 "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other; or he will be faithful to one and despise the other.

Today, the glory of God has departed from many individuals, ministers, and churches because of sin; God is looking for a people who, just like Moses comes out of the camp, is looking for a people who will enter into an intimate and personal relationship with Him, a people who understand who He is, who will pray and worship Him.

What is the pattern of prayer?

Physical Location

Our physical position is not important, we can stand, walk, kneel or lie on the floor, we can close our eyes or keep them open, we can sit at a table with our notepad in front of us, we can walk into a dark study, we can pray aloud, we can pray silently, we can pray for hours or for minutes, we can pray in tongues in the Spirit or in a natural way, there is absolute freedom.

Entering into the Presence of God

We enter into prayer the same way we enter into worship, we go into the presence of God as David did.

Ps 100:4 Enter into its gates with thanksgiving, and into its courts with praise; celebrate him, bless his name.

We can stand at His doors with thanksgiving or enter His courtyards with praise, we can also enter the Most Holy Place, God's throne room as we bless His name. Our petitions, our needs, our requests are still in our minds as we give Him thanksgiving and even when we enter into praise, but when we enter the throne room of heaven, all our needs are forgotten as we worship Him for who He is. We can approach God's presence when we want to, but there, in His presence, we must present ourselves cleansed from all sin. How do we do thanksgiving? How do we give praise? How do we love it?

Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is an expression of joy that comes from the heart in appreciating all the benefits and blessings that God has given to us and to other believers. Thanksgiving is a way to abide in Him.

Ps 107:8 Let them praise the LORD for his lovingkindness and for his wonders for the children of men.

Ps 118:1 Praise the LORD, for he is good, for his lovingkindness endures for ever.

In times of pain we can, by God's grace, thank Him, we can thank and praise Jesus when we are faced with severe trials.

1 Pt 1:6-7 "Because of this you rejoice, even though you must be afflicted with various trials for a little while now, so that the trial of your faith, which is far more precious than gold that perishes even if it is tested by fire, may result in praise, honor, and glory in the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Thanksgiving fills us with trust and faith, it accelerates the answers to our prayers. An excellent way to spend time in thanksgiving is by reading the Psalms as if they were prayers to God.

Praise

Praise is an expression of approval, praise, or admiration, it means to exalt or exalt, and it is another way to abide in God, to magnify Him for what He has done.

Ps 34:1 I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise will always be on my mouth.

Ps 135:1 Hallelujah. Praise the name of the Lord. Praise him, servants of the Lord.

Ps 148:1-5 Hallelujah. Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise him in the highest. Praise him, all you his angels, praise him, all you his armies. Praise him, sun and moon, praise him, all you shining stars. Praise him, you heavens of heavens, and you waters above the heavens. Let all these things praise the name of the LORD, because he commanded, and they were created.

Ps 150:1-6 Hallelujah, praise God in his sanctuary, praise him in the firmament of his power. Praise him for his portents, praise him according to his greatness. Praise him with the sound of the trumpet, praise him with the harp and the zither. Praise him with the tambourine and with the dance, praise him with string and wind instruments. Praise him with resounding

cymbals, praise him with ringing cymbals. Let everything that breathes praise the Lord. Hallelujah.

Worship

Worship is the submission (bending, bowing) of the inner spirit with deep humility and reverence before Him. True worship comes from a heart filled with love and appreciation for who God is.

Ps 34:1-3 "I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise will always be on my lips. Magnify the LORD with me, and let us all together exalt his name.

Ps 148:13 Let them praise the name of the LORD: for only his name is exalted. His glory is above earth and heaven.

Ps 8:1 How magnificent is thy name in all the earth, O LORD our Lord, who hast set thy majesty above the heavens!

We can give praise to the Lord Jesus, who through His precious blood redeemed us to God. When we worship Him, we can join the heavenly multitudes who prostrate themselves before Him:

Rev 5:12 "They said with a loud voice, 'The Lamb who was slain is worthy to receive power, riches, wisdom, strength, honor, glory, and praise.'

Even without words we can worship God, in silence, we can meditate on the greatness and majesty of God! And through the wonders of His creation.

Job 37:14 "Incline your ear to this, O Job, and be still, and consider the wonders of God!"

The Power of Prayer and Praise

There are two things we are commanded to do continually, to pray without stop and praise God continuously. Let us meditate on some scriptures:

Lk 18:1 ... we must continually pray without tiring...

Lk 21:36 "Watch therefore, praying at all times...

Rom 1:9 ... I never stop mentioning you in my prayers...

1 Thess 2:13 "For this also we do not cease to give thanks to God...

2 Tim 1:3 ... I never cease to remember you in my prayers day and night...

2 Thess 1:11 "For this reason also we pray for you continually...

1 Thess 5:16-18 "Be always cheerful; Never cease to pray; In all things give thanks, for such is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Jehoshaphat is a wonderful example to us of the power of prayer and praise, he faced three armies, the kings of three nations had gone against him and in the natural way it was a desperate situation, but he sought the Lord and banned a fast and prayed reminding God of the prayer made by Solomon and the promise made to David concerning his name in the Temple.

He prayed on God's promise

2 Ch 20:3,5-12 "Then Jehoshaphat was afraid, and set out to seek the Lord, and proclaimed a fast for all Judah. Then Jehoshaphat stood in the midst of the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem in the house of the LORD before the new courtyard, and said, O LORD, the God of our fathers, are you not the God that is in heaven? Yes, you rule over all the kingdoms of the nations; In your hands are strength and power and there is no one who can resist you. Was it not you, our God, who drove out the inhabitants of this land from before your people Israel and gave them forever to the seed of your friend Abraham? They have dwelt there, and have built a sanctuary there for thy name, saying, "If calamity should come upon us, the sword, or judgment, or pestilence, or famine, we will stand before this temple, and before thee (for thy name is in this temple), we will cry out unto thee out of our adversity, and you will listen to us and come to our aid." And now, behold, the sons of Ammon, and of Moab, and those of Mount Seir, into whose territory you did not allow Israel to enter when they went out of the land of Egypt (therefore they kept away from them and did not destroy them), and behold, they reward us, coming to drive us out of your inheritance which you have given us to possess. O our God, will you not execute judgment on them? For we are powerless before to this great multitude that comes against us; We don't know what but our eyes are on you."

We note the progression of Jehoshaphat's prayer, he began by recognizing who God was and what he had done, he said: "Lord, you gave us this land, we obeyed you when we left the inhabitants alive". He ended with the honest confession: "We don't know what to do, but our eyes are on You." But most importantly, he clung to His promise and Solomon's approved prayer.

God answered

Then the Lord answered through Jahaziel.

2 Ch 20:15-17 "Do not be afraid, do not be dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours, but God's. Tomorrow go down against them; behold, they will go up the hill of Tsits, and you will find them at the end of the valley facing the desert of Jeruel. You will not be the ones to fight in this battle; take your stand, stand still, and you will see the deliverance of the Lord who is with you."

Taking a stand

Jahaziel said, "Take your stand, stand still, and you will see the deliverance of the Lord." What position did he and the others take? They bowed their faces to the ground and worshipped the Lord, and stood up and praised Him.

2 Ch 20:18-19 And Jehoshaphat bowed his face to the ground, and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem bowed down before the LORD, and worshipped him. Then the Levites, of the children of the Kehathites and of the children of the Korahites, arose to praise the Lord God of Israel with a loud voice.

Believing in the Lord

The next day Jehoshaphat declared the Word of the Lord, did not repeat the problem again, but exhorted the people to believe, and sent forth those who would sing and those who would praise in front of the army.

2 Ch 20:20-21 The next morning they got up early and left for the desert of Tekoa; As they set out, Jehoshaphat, standing, said: "Listen to me, O Judah, and you inhabitants of Jerusalem! Believe in the Lord your God, and you will be steadfast; believe in his prophets, and you will prosper."

Then, after taking counsel with the people, he appointed those who were to sing to the Lord, and to praise him for the brightness of his holiness, as they walked before the army and said, "Praise the Lord, for his lovingkindness endures forever." When they began to sing and praise the Lord, God ambushed the enemy. The enemy armies met and destroyed each other.

The enemy defeated himself

2 Chr 20:22-24 "As soon as the songs of joy and praise began, the Lord laid an ambush against the sons of Ammon and Moab and against those of

Mount Seir who had come against Judah; and they were defeated. The sons of Ammon and Moab attacked the inhabitants of Mount Seir to destroy them and destroy them; and when they had annihilated the inhabitants of Seir, they began to destroy each other. When the men of Judah had reached the high ground from which the desert was seen, they looked at the multitude, and behold, the corpses lay on the ground; No one had escaped.

The prayer of Elijah and the priests of Baal

There was an extreme display of power when fire fell from heaven and consumed Elijah's sacrifice.

1 Kings 18:36,37 "O LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel, that I am your servant, and that I have done all these things at your command. Answer me, O Lord, answer me, that this people may know that you, O Lord, are God, and that you have made their hearts return to you."

Elijah began by recognizing who God was and reminding Him that he was walking in obedience, he did not say a word about the other priests who were against him, he did not pray about the problem, he also did not ask for the fire to fall and the sacrifice to be consumed, but he tried to safeguard God's people.

Jonah's Plea

Jonah prayed, and the fish vomited him out on the land to which God had sent him.

Gn 2:1-10 "Now the Lord had prepared a big fish to swallow Jonah; and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights. Then Jonah prayed to the Lord his God from the belly of the fish, and said, "In my misfortune I cried unto the Lord, and he answered me; from the womb of the

Sheol I cried out, and you heard my voice. You threw me into a deep place, into the heart of the seas, the current surrounded me, and all your waves and waves passed over me. Then I said, "I have been cast out of your presence. Yet I will still look toward your holy temple. The waters surrounded me to my soul, the abyss enveloped me, the seaweed wrapped around my

head. I have descended to the foundations of the mountains, the earth shut its bars behind me forever, but you have brought my life up from the pit, O Lord my God. When my soul failed within me, I remembered the Lord, and my prayer came to you in your holy temple. Those who regard lying vanities abandon the very source of their grace. But I will offer sacrifices to you with voices of praise, and fulfill the vows I have made. Salvation belongs to the Lord.

David's Prayer and Praise

The little shepherd boy grew up to kill the giant and then went to conquer nation after nation and became the king of Israel; David's life was a life of praise and certainly of power, David was a man loved by God. The book of Psalms is full of his prayers and praises.

Ps 3:3-5 "But you, O LORD, are a shield around me; You are my glory and the one who lifts my head. With my voice I cried unto the LORD, and he answered me from his holy mountain. I lay down and slept; then I awoke, because the Lord sustains me.

Ps 4:1 When I cry out, answer me, O God of my righteousness; when I was in adversity, you helped me; have mercy on me and hear my prayer.

Ps 5:1-3 Incline your ear to my words, O LORD; Be attentive to my complaint. Hear the voice of my cry, O my King and my God, for to you I address my prayer. O LORD, in the morning thou hearest my voice; In the morning I will raise my prayer to you and wait.

Ps 7:1 O LORD my God, I take refuge in thee; save me from all those who persecute me and deliver me.

Ps 25:1-5 To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul. O my God, in you I trust, grant that I may not be confounded, and that my enemies may not triumph over me. Yes, let none of those who hope in you be disappointed; let those who behave treacherously for no reason be confused. O LORD, make me know thy ways, teach me thy paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation.

Ps 31:1-3 "In you, O Lord, I have taken refuge; let me never be confused; deliver me for thy righteousness. Incline your ear to me, hasten to deliver me; be to me a strong fortress and a fortified place to save me. For thou art my rock and my fortress; For your name's sake guide and lead me.

Ps 40:1-3 "I have waited steadfastly and patiently for the Lord, and he has bent down over me and heard my cry. He brought me out of a pit of perdition, out of the mud of the swamp, set my feet on a rock, and made my feet steadfast. He has put a new song in my mouth to the praise of our God; many will see this and tremble, and trust in the Lord.

Ps 42:1-2,8 "As a deer longs for the streams of the waters, so my soul longs for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When will I come and appear before God? The Lord, by day, granted his grace, and at night I raised songs for him as a prayer to the God who gives me life.

Ps 57:1-3 Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me, for my soul takes refuge in you; I take refuge in the shadow of your wings until the calamities have passed. I will cry out to God, the Most High, to God who brings all things to completion for me. He will send from heaven to save me; he rebukes him who wants to devour me. God will send his kindness and his truth.

Ps 71:1-3 "I take refuge in thee, O LORD, grant that I may never be put to shame. By thy righteousness, deliver me and save me; incline your ear to me and save me. Be for me a fortress of escape, to which I can always come; you have ordained my salvation, because you are my rock and my fortress.

Dwelling in the secret place (shelter)

When we abide in Christ we become worshippers of God, when we live in the intimacy of His presence, in the Most Holy Place, we are dwelling in the secret place (shelter) of the Most High.

Ps 91:1 He that dwelleth in the shelter of the Most High resteth in the shadow of the Almighty.

As we bow before His throne in a lifestyle of worship, we are resting in the shadow of the Almighty. It is here that we take pleasure in Him, and it is here that His desires will become our desires.

Ps 40:8 My God, I delight in doing thy will, and thy law is within my heart.

Ps 37:4 Take your delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Jn 15:7 "If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask what you will, and it will be done to you."

2 Corinthians 13:13 "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all." Amen