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ADVANCING IN *Prayers*

ISAIAH MICHAEL WEALTH

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IN
*P*rayers

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BEng, Dmin, D.D (Hon)



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95. Seeing in the Spirit
96. The Smart Soul Winner
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98. Signs and Wonders in the Glory
99. The Five Foundations of Christianity
100. Entertaining the Glory

Contents



Introduction	13
The Prayer Of Petition	15
The Prayer Of Consecration	47
The Prayer Of Thanksgiving	71
The Prayer Of Worship	91
The Prayer Of Faith	111
Warfare Prayers	123
The Prayer Of Agreement	151
Songs By The Author	167
Other Resources by Isaiah Michael Wealth	169

Introduction



THE TYPE OF PRAYER YOU pray about a situation can determine the outcome of your prayers, whether it will be efficacious or not. This is because different kinds of situations and challenges require different types of prayer.

Praying a prayer of sanctification when you should be praying a prayer of warfare may edify you and build your relationship with God but might not create the required change which is the ultimate effect of prayer.

The reason a lot of Christians have not been able to pray through or receive answers is because they do not understand the different kinds of prayers and the rules that govern them. Others have gotten results in prayer by trial and error but cannot categorically explain how they got those results. Hence, they are unable to duplicate it or transfer the knowledge to others.

In this book, we will take an in-depth study of the different

types of prayers and how to apply them in our everyday lives. Get ready for a revelation that will grant you speedy results in prayer.

CHAPTER ONE



The Prayer Of Petition

THE GENERAL FORM OF PRAYER that believers engage in, is the prayer of petition. This makes prayer a legal activity. The lack of this understanding is one major reason why we fail to get answers to prayers.

A petition is a legal term used to describe an argument based on the law. It is to urge for or against a course of action by petitioning before one who has the authority, for example a judge. There cannot be a petition without the law because the law sets the standard or determines what should be considered right or wrong.

What is the Prayer of Petition?

The prayer of petition is therefore a prayer or request made based on the word of God; the law, for or against a course of

action in the court or presence of God. You cannot petition successfully without the law or a deep understanding of the word of God, its application, references and interpretation.

Lawyers go through extensive drilling not just to know the law but to enable them interpret it. In the same manner, to be effective in the prayer of petition, we must be grounded and rooted in the word—its doctrines and interpretation.

To fully understand the prayer of petition, we will begin in Genesis, when God appeared to Abraham in the plains of Mamre.

The Lord appeared to Abraham accompanied by two angels in the form of men, but Abraham had the spirit of revelation and discerned that they were not mere men.

And the LORD appeared unto him in the plains of Mamre: and he sat in the tent door in the heat of the day; And he lift up his eyes and looked, and, lo, three men stood by him: and when he saw them, he ran to meet them from the tent door, and bowed himself toward the ground,

Genesis 18:2

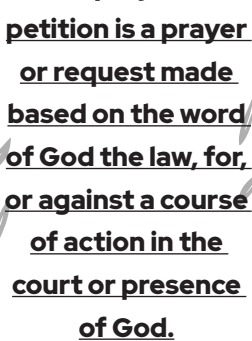
Abraham was a prophet and hence when he saw them passing by, he offered to entertain them. By so doing,

God dined in his home and reaffirmed His promise to give him a son.

And Abraham hastened into the tent unto Sarah, and said, Make ready quickly three measures of fine meal, knead it, and make cakes upon the hearth. And Abraham ran unto the herd, and fetch a calf tender and good, and gave it unto a young man; and he hasted to dress it. And he took butter, and milk, and the calf which he had dressed, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree, and they did eat. And they said unto him, Where is Sarah thy wife? And he said, Behold, in the tent. And he said, I will certainly return unto thee according to the time of life; and, lo, Sarah thy wife shall have a son. And Sarah heard it in the tent door, which was behind him. Now Abraham and Sarah were old and well stricken in age; and it ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. Therefore Sarah laughed within herself, saying, After I am waxed old shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also? And the LORD said unto Abraham, Wherefore did Sarah laugh, saying, Shall I of a surety bear a child, which am old? Is any thing too hard for the LORD? At the time appointed

I will return unto thee, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son.

Genesis 18:6–14



**The prayer of
petition is a prayer
or request made
based on the word
of God the law, for,
or against a course
of action in the
court or presence
of God.**

A lot of times, God has visited us or passed by us but we did not notice Him because we were looking at the outward appearance. He may have come as a beggar who needed help, or a stranger who needed a ride. This is why Apostle Paul warns us not to be forgetful to entertain strangers.

*Be not forgetful to entertain strangers:
for thereby some have entertained angels
unawares.*

Hebrews 13:2

God did not only reaffirm His promise to bless Abraham with a child, He revealed a secret to him. The real reason God came was to visit Sodom and get proof or evidence of their evil deeds. He confided in Abraham.

*And the LORD said, Shall I hide from
Abraham that thing which I do; Seeing that
Abraham shall surely become a great and*

mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him. And the LORD said, Because he cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grievous; I will go down now, and see whether they have done altogether according to the cry of it, which is come unto me; and if not, I will know.

Genesis 18:17–21

The ground, the earth and nature complain when man sins. God hears in heaven and these bring curses, earthquakes, tsunamis and great destruction upon the earth.

When people are killed, treated unjustly or oppressed, a cry goes to heaven. Like the blood of Abel, their blood cries out for vengeance and justice. And when such judgement comes, many ask why in ignorance. If we are wise, we will not ask God why, instead we would arm ourselves to bring forth our case before the judge in prayers.

*And he said, What hast thou done? the voice
of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from
the ground*

Genesis 4:10

The cry of Sodom and Gomorrah had come to God in Heaven and God had come to the earth to see if what He had heard was true. Someone might want to ask, “why did God need evidence to confirm the cry that had come to His throne from the land of Sodom when He is omniscient and omnipresent?”

Well, God does not always work with His omniscience. Although He is all knowing, He still works with evidence. God is a judge hence there must be evidence. There is no court that exists without evidence. I believe this is why angels move to and fro the earth, taking records of the deeds of men.

God already knew about the fall of man before Adam fell, but He still allowed things to play out because man had a choice. If God judges us by His omniscience, there will be no need for evidence. God sees and knows all things in His omniscience and in His omnipresence but according to the law or the word, He does not know until there is evidence.

I will go down now, and see whether they have done altogether according to the cry of it, which is come unto me; and if not, I will know.

Genesis 18: 21

After God revealed His plans to Abraham, the angels of God departed into Sodom and Gomorrah and the lord remained with Abraham. We see what happened after the angels got to Sodom and Gomorrah in the proceeding scriptures.

And there came two angels to Sodom at even; and Lot sat in the gate of Sodom: and Lot seeing them rose up to meet them; and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground; And he said, Behold now, my lords, turn in, I pray you, into your servant's house, and tarry all night, and wash your feet, and ye shall rise up early, and go on your ways. And they said, Nay; but we will abide in the street all night. And he pressed upon them greatly; and they turned in unto him, and entered into his house; and he made them a feast, and did bake unleavened bread, and they did eat.

Genesis 19:1–3

Like Abraham, Lot was also a good man although he lived in a wicked city. He received the angels and offered them rest, but not long after, the men of the city gave the angels all the evidence they needed.

But before they lay down, the men of the city, even the men of Sodom, compassed the house round, both old and young, all the people from every quarter: And they called unto Lot, and said unto him, Where are the men which came in to thee this night? bring them out unto us, that we may know them.

Genesis 19:4–5

The men of the city demanded that Lot bring the angels out of his house so that they would have sexual intercourse with them. Their demand violated already written statutes of God. Their actions provided the legal ground for the destruction of the city. And there was no going back except someone stood in the gap or petitioned God.

This is why righteous Abraham drew nigh unto God confidently and began to petition Him about the city and for His brother Lot.

And Abraham drew near, and said, Wilt thou also destroy the righteous with the wicked? Peradventure there be fifty righteous within

the city: wilt thou also destroy and not spare the place for the fifty righteous that are therein? That be far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee: Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?

Genesis 18:23–25

Abraham's first point of petition was against God destroying the righteous with the ungodly. He argued for the life of the righteous because the righteous and the ungodly should not be destroyed together. This also happens around us all the time—the righteous perishing with the wicked. It is not God's will but we must stand in the gap in prayer. I think this should answer the questions in the heart of a lot of believers about why believers have perished in plane crashes and natural disasters like the ungodly. If we do not pray or petition God, the evil that happens to the world, will happen in the church. We must constantly remind God of His word.

Put me in remembrance: let us plead together: declare thou, that thou mayest be justified.

Isaiah 43:26

Furthermore, we will notice that God was not angry

with Abraham for questioning His decision, because as a righteous man, Abraham had the right to come before Him. Abraham asked God to spare the whole city for the sake of fifty righteous men and it was so. This goes a long way to show the value of righteous men in a place, and gives us a light on geographical intercession.

And the LORD said, if I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare all the place for their sakes.

Genesis 18:26

But then, God could not even find fifty righteous among the people. Yet, Abraham continued petitioning. He went ahead to petition God for forty five, forty, thirty and even twenty righteous men, and for all these, God said He would spare the city.

Peradventure there shall lack five of the fifty righteous: wilt thou destroy all the city for lack of five? And he said, If I find there forty and five, I will not destroy it. And he spake unto him yet again, and said, Peradventure there shall be forty found there. And he said, I will not do it for forty's sake. And he said unto him, Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak: Peradventure there shall thirty be found there. And he said, I will not do it,

if I find thirty there. And he said, Behold now, I have taken upon me to speak unto the Lord: Peradventure there shall be twenty found there. And he said, I will not destroy it for twenty's sake.

Genesis 18:28–31

But, in verse 32, he makes a significant statement that changes the course of his petition and this statement brings the petition to an end.

And he said, Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak yet but this once: Peradventure ten shall be found there. And he said, I will not destroy it for ten's sake.

Genesis 18:32

Please notice the phrase “*oh let not the lord be angry*”. God never complained about his demands neither was He angry about Abraham’s persistence. His willingness and response to Abraham’s petition shows us that. However, for Abraham, inferiority complex began to set in and he withdrew. You can never ask too much from God. You can never be unworthy to ask. God took care of this by imparting you with His own righteousness. This means you can appear before Him like Him—clothed in His own clothes (His own righteousness). Glory to God!

Also notice the phrase “*i will speak yet but this once*”. He was asking to speak for the last time and according to his words, after that time, he spoke no further.

And the LORD went his way, as soon as he had left communing with Abraham: and Abraham returned unto his place.

Genesis 18:33

I believe that if Abraham had asked God to save the city because of one righteous man, He would have because God only needs one righteous man to save a city—one righteous man who will pray.

And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none.

Ezekiel 22:30

In prayers, we must stand as the righteousness of God and fear not to argue our case with Him freely according to His word by His spirit.

Although, the city of Sodom and Gomorrah was destroyed, yet because of Abraham’s petition with regards to destroying the righteous with the ungodly, God spared the life of lot and his family.

*That be far from thee to do after this manner,
to slay the righteous with the wicked: and
that the righteous should be as the wicked,
that be far from thee: Shall not the Judge of
all the earth do right?*

Genesis 18:25

*Haste thee, escape thither; for I cannot do
any thing till thou be come thither. Therefore
the name of the city was called Zoar. The sun
was risen upon the earth when Lot entered
into Zoar. Then the LORD rained upon
Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and
fire from the LORD out of heaven; And he
overthrew those cities, and all the plain,
and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that
which grew upon the ground.*

Genesis 19:22–25

This story is a perfect example of the prayer of petition. God can spare your family, loved ones and even your nation because of you. A righteous man has power with God and is the salvation of his city. But, the more righteous men that there are, the stronger the force there is that withstands the forces of evil which draw reproach to that city.

*Then there came some that told Jehoshaphat,
saying, There cometh a great multitude*

against thee from beyond the sea on this side Syria; and, behold, they be in Hazazontamar, which is Engedi. And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. And Judah gathered themselves together, to ask help of the LORD:

2Chronicles 20:2–4

God does not move because of your fear or your tears. He is moved by your faith and your faith is manifested when and how you seek Him. King Jehoshaphat did this and we see his prayers in the scriptures below.

And Jehoshaphat stood in the congregation of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the LORD, before the new court, And said, O LORD God of our fathers, art not thou God in heaven? and rulest not thou over all the kingdoms of the heathen? and in thine hand is there not power and might, so that none is able to withstand thee? Art not thou our God, who didst drive out the inhabitants of this land before thy people Israel, and gavest it to the seed of Abraham thy friend for ever? And they dwelt therein, and have built thee a sanctuary therein for thy name, saying, If, when evil cometh upon us, as the sword,

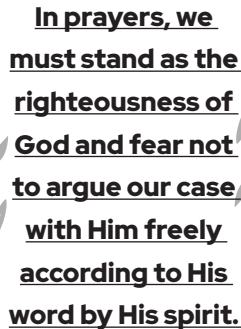
judgment, or pestilence, or famine, we stand before this house, and in thy presence, (for thy name is in this house,) and cry unto thee in our affliction, then thou wilt hear and help.

2Chronicles 20:5–8

After his worship, in verse 9, he begins to argue his case before God. I want you to study his argument closely.

And now, behold, the children of Ammon and Moab and mount Seir, whom thou wouldst not let Israel invade, when they came out of the land of Egypt, but they turned from them, and destroyed them not; Behold, I say, how they reward us, to come to cast us out of thy possession, which thou hast given us to inherit. O our God, wilt thou not judge them? for we have no might against this great company that cometh against us; neither know we what to do: but our eyes are upon thee.

2 Chronicles 20:10–12



In prayers, we must stand as the righteousness of God and fear not to argue our case with Him freely according to His word by His spirit.

He did not just speak vain words or beg God, he reminded God of how He Had spared the ammonites and the children of Moab generations before.

And command thou the people, saying, Ye are to pass through the coast of your brethren the children of Esau, which dwell in Seir; and they shall be afraid of you: take ye good heed unto yourselves therefore: Meddle not with them; for I will not give you of their land, no, not so much as a foot breadth

Deuteronomy 2:4-5

And the LORD said unto me, Distress not the Moabites, neither contend with them in battle: for I will not give thee of their land for a possession; because I have given Ar unto the children of Lot for a possession

Deuteronomy 2:9

And when thou comest nigh over against the children of Ammon, distress them not, nor meddle with them: for I will not give thee of the land of the children of Ammon any possession; because I have given it unto the children of Lot for a possession.

Deuteronomy 2:19

Then he asked God to judge their actions. This is the kind of prayer that moves God because it is consistent with His word and it reminds Him of His covenant with His people. After his prayers, the Spirit of the Lord came upon one of the Levites and he prophesied the wisdom of God to King Jehoshaphat and Judah. This answers the question “how long should one pray about a thing?” Pray and pray until there is a word from God upon which you can act.

Then upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, a Levite of the sons of Asaph, came the Spirit of the LORD in the midst of the congregation; And he said, Hearken ye, all Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem, and thou king Jehoshaphat, Thus saith the LORD unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God's.

2Chronicles 20:14–15

When they got the word, even though they had not yet experienced it, they worshipped Him and praised Him—this was a proof that they believed the word.

And Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground: and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell before the

LORD, worshipping the LORD. And the Levites, of the children of the Kohathites, and of the children of the Korhites, stood up to praise the LORD God of Israel with a loud voice on high.

2 Chronicles 20:18–19

I want you to also notice that God did not come down from heaven to speak to them, He spoke through a man. Though a man spoke yet they worshipped God. This goes to show us that most times God speaks to us through people and the circumstances that surround us. So, when we say pray until you hear from God, that word from God might just be in a CD on your shelf. The word will pull you to Himself.

Have you ever felt drawn to a book, a tape, a programme, etc. It is because the word of God to you is in it. The proof that God spoke is in the confirmation of the word. After Jehaziel spoke, God gave the people victory as he had promised.

And when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushments against the children of Ammon, Moab, and mount Seir, which were come against Judah; and they were smitten. For the children of Ammon and Moab stood up against the inhabitants

of mount Seir, utterly to slay and destroy them: and when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, every one helped to destroy another.

2 Chronicles 20:22–23

A lot of the battles we fight today will become nothing to us if only we can seek Him correctly and receive a word from Him.

Kinds of Petition

There are two kinds of petition;

1. Supplication
2. Intercession

Before we talk about these in details, I want you to note that the words petition, supplication and intercession have been used interchangeably in the scriptures and by renowned authors leading to much confusion. The Apostle Paul made reference to these three words in his letters and this will help us differentiate them.

Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

Philippians 4:6

*I exhort therefore, that, first of all,
supplications, prayers, intercessions, and
giving of thanks, be made for all men;*

1Timothy 2:1

The scriptures above identifies four major kinds of prayer—supplications, prayers, intercession and giving of thanks or thanksgiving.

The word “supplication” in the above scripture is gotten from the Greek word “*deesis*” which means a humble and sincere appeal to someone who has the power to grant the request.

The word “prayers” is gotten from the Greek word “*proseuche*” and it means worship or adoration. We will consider this kind of prayer in another chapter. The word “intercession” is gotten from another Greek word “*enteuxis*” and it means an action of pleading on someone else’s behalf.

Finally, the phrase “giving of thanks” originates from the Greek “*eucharistia*”. We will also focus on this in another chapter. But, our focus in this chapter will be on the two kinds of petition—supplication and intercession.

The distinction

Although, supplication and intercession are kinds of petition, there is a difference between both.

Supplication is humble appeal or a petition that has to do with you, your family, and issues that are directly related to you. It focuses on you. In this case, you bring an appeal before God according to His word about your life. In the prayer of intercession on the other hand, the petition has nothing to do with you. Instead, it is a request made for others not directly related to you or a situation that does not include or involve you. An example of this is a missionary praying for the salvation of souls.

In Intercession on the other hand, the prayer is not directly related to the person praying. It is mostly a plea, especially if the person involved is not saved. Intercession when properly appropriated can draw on the mercy of God and overshadow the mistakes of men. This prayer is made based on God's eternal provision and the rights of the person(s) involved.

But, unlike the prayer of intercession, the prayer of supplication is based on my right in Christ Jesus. The prayer of supplication is easier to pray because you are dealing with your own case so, your sentiments can come in to play. You have authority because it pertains to you,

but in the prayer of intercession you might not have such level of authority or sufficient details on the matter.

Concerning elements like the rain, sun or the weather, you may need to intercede because, they are elements that also have to do with others. This is where the prayer of petition is delicate. For example, one believer might be praying for it to rain to help his crops grow, another might be praying for it not to rain because it is his wedding day. You cannot just command the rain in your favour (There is a level of sonship where this is possible but that is not within the scope of this book). You will need to intercede and present your case before God and let Him judge between you and the other believer. And if you lose, I believe you can appeal with better argument. This is clearly different from a prophetic declaration that can command rain. In such a case of speaking from God, you speak as an oracle. This is easy because in that case, you only speak for God what He has determined and it cannot fail.

If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

1Peter 4:11

In the new covenant, everything about the life of the believer has been settled on the cross, so he has an advantage. He can draw from the finished work of Christ, he can draw from his relationship with the father, and he can also draw from personal and peculiar promises made to him by the Father. But, on the other hand, when we pray for others we may not be aware of their true state, so we cannot just command the devil on their behalf or bind and loose as we please. This is why in the prayer of supplication, speaking in tongues is of great advantage. We will see this later.

A good example is how Joshua and the Israelites lost a battle to a small nation called Ai and thousands of men lost their lives just because one person in the camp possessed an accursed thing

So there went up thither of the people about three thousand men: and they fled before the men of Ai. And the men of Ai smote of them about thirty and six men: for they chased them from before the gate even unto Shebarim, and smote them in the going down: wherefore the hearts of the people melted, and became as water.

Joshua 7:4-5

Many years ago, I was casting demons out of a lady, some demons came out and others did not. I asked the Holy

Ghost about her case and He told me she had the spirit of unforgiveness that was holding back her total deliverance. I told her about it and she confirmed it, mentioning the names of those she was holding a grudge against, and totally forgave them. I led her to make some confessions thereafter, and immediately she made them, she fell under the power of the Spirit and was totally free. The demons refused to go because they had a ground to stay—her unforgiveness.

In another instance, I went to pray for a lady who was sick in the hospital. When I got there, I saw the word ‘unforgiveness’ written on her in the spirit, and I told her there were twenty one persons she needed to forgive before I could pray for her. She responded in a yell “how can I forgive them after all they have done to me”. I tried to help her let go but she refused. A few days later, she died of her sickness.

As much as we love people and want to help, we can mostly intercede on their behalf drawing on the mercy of God to deliver them.

An intercept

However, there is a special kind of supplication that falls under intercession. In this kind of supplication, you are standing in the gap for a community, country or group

you belong to and identify with. This kind of supplication can also be referred to as intercession because in this case, when you are praying, you are regarded as the nation or the community for which you are praying. When you stand before God, that nation or community is standing before God. Here, you are referred to as the community and the community as you. You become one with the object of your prayer.

We will study the prayer of Daniel in chapter nine to understand more about this special kind of supplication. In Daniel 9, Daniel understood by studying books of the law that the years of the desolation of Israel had been completed as prophesied by the prophet Jeremiah.

And this whole land shall be a desolation, and an astonishment; and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years. And it shall come to pass, when seventy years are accomplished, that I will punish the king of Babylon, and that nation, saith the LORD, for their iniquity, and the land of the Chaldeans, and will make it perpetual desolations.

Jeremiah 25:11–12

To fulfil the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed her

sabbaths: for as long as she lay desolate she kept sabbath, to fulfil threescore and ten years.

2 Chronicles 36:21

But, the fact that the seventy years had been accomplished did not change their situation. The fact that a word of prophecy came to you does mean that the prophecy will manifest in its appointed time. I have always said that “prophecy not prayed is property not claimed”. How true! Apostle Paul also reminds Timothy to war with the prophecies he had received.

This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare;

1Timothy 1:18

So, Daniel set himself to war a good warfare according to the prophecy of Jeremiah. He set himself to pray for Israel as Israel.

And I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplications, with fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes:

Daniel 9:3

Like King Jehoshaphat, he begins with worship.

*And I prayed unto the LORD my God,
and made my confession, and said, O Lord,
the great and dreadful God, keeping the
covenant and mercy to them that love him,
and to them that keep his commandments;*

Daniel 9:4

But, I want you to notice his words, he does not say “*their confessions*”, he says “*my confession*”. Then he moves to the confession proper.

We have sinned, and have committed iniquity, and have done wickedly, and have rebelled, even by departing from thy precepts and from thy judgments: Neither have we hearkened unto thy servants the prophets, which spake in thy name to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, and to all the people of the land. O Lord, righteousness belongeth unto thee, but unto us confusion of faces, as at this day; to the men of Judah, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and unto all Israel, that are near, and that are far off, through all the countries whither thou hast driven them, because of their trespass that they have trespassed against thee. O Lord, to

us belongeth confusion of face, to our kings, to our princes, and to our fathers, because we have sinned against thee. To the Lord our God belong mercies and forgivenesses, though we have rebelled against him; Neither have we obeyed the voice of the LORD our God, to walk in his laws, which he set before us by his servants the prophets. Yea, all Israel have transgressed thy law, even by departing, that they might not obey thy voice; therefore the curse is poured upon us, and the oath that is written in the law of Moses the servant of God, because we have sinned against him. And he hath confirmed his words, which he spake against us, and against our judges that judged us, by bringing upon us a great evil: for under the whole heaven hath not been done as hath been done upon Jerusalem. As it is written in the law of Moses, all this evil is come upon us: yet made we not our prayer before the LORD our God, that we might turn from our iniquities, and understand thy truth. Therefore hath the LORD watched upon the evil, and brought it upon us: for the LORD our God is righteous in all his works which he doeth: for we obeyed not his voice. And now, O Lord our God, that hast brought thy people forth out of the land of

Egypt with a mighty hand, and hast gotten thee renown, as at this day; we have sinned, we have done wickedly. O Lord, according to all thy righteousness, I beseech thee, let thine anger and thy fury be turned away from thy city Jerusalem, thy holy mountain: because for our sins, and for the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and thy people are become a reproach to all that are about us. Now therefore, O our God, hear the prayer of thy servant, and his supplications, and cause thy face to shine upon thy sanctuary that is desolate, for the Lord's sake. O my God, incline thine ear, and hear; open thine eyes, and behold our desolations, and the city which is called by thy name: for we do not present our supplications before thee for our righteousnesses, but for thy great mercies. O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive; O Lord, hearken and do; defer not, for thine own sake, O my God: for thy city and thy people are called by thy name.

Daniel 9:5–19

I also want you to notice the phrase “*we have sinned*”. He did not say “I have sinned” because at that point in time he was representing Israel, and he was speaking as Israel. Before God, it was Israel repenting for their sins. They had

disobeyed God and he was arguing their case before God.

In verse 14, Daniel says something that is worthy of note.

Therefore hath the LORD watched upon the evil, and brought it upon us: for the LORD our God is righteous in all his works which he doeth: for we obeyed not his voice.

Daniel 9:14

God watched as the evil happened and they were taken into captivity and did nothing, not because He could not but because He would not. Almost every day I hear people saying things like “if there is God, why is there so much evil in the world?” My response is this “if there is a government in your country, why are people still in prison houses”? It is the same thing; the silence of God does not mean the absence of God.

God watched the evil happen to them and did nothing because they had violated His word, Ezekiel tells us how.

The people of the land have used oppression, and exercised robbery, and have vexed the poor and needy: yea, they have oppressed the stranger wrongfully.

Ezekiel 22:29

He also tells us what God requires to interfere in the affairs of men in the next verse.

And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none.

Ezekiel 22:30

A gap is a distance between two people or two things. God is always looking for a man who will stand in the gap for man and bring His perfect will to pass.

God found that man in Daniel and through his prayers, God began the process of restoring Israel.

A lot of evil is coming on this world because of the evil they have committed, but God is searching for an intercessor that will stand in the gap. Are you that man or woman?

Evil things sometimes happen to Christians because there is no intercessor. There is what I call “community sin”. This is when everyone in a community suffers for the sins of a few within that community. For instance, all of Egypt suffered for the wickedness of Pharaoh, when they lost their firstborn and Israel would have suffered the same fate had they not obeyed the voice of Moses. Moses instructed them to anoint the lintel of their doors because the angel

of death would not know the difference between the door of the Egyptians and the door of the Israelites. The blood made all the difference.

Today, the blood of Jesus still makes the difference, and if you are born again, that blood is on your fore head. What kills others cannot kill you. Halleluyah!

For the LORD will pass through to smite the Egyptians; and when he seeth the blood upon the lintel, and on the two side posts, the LORD will pass over the door, and will not suffer the destroyer to come in unto your houses to smite you.

Exodus 12:23

The word and power of God activated and received in the place of prayer, is our weapon against Satan the destroyer. When we live prayerless lives, we will suffer the things the world suffers. This is not God's will, thus His invitation to prayer.

CHAPTER TWO



The Prayer Of Consecration

THE CALLING OF THE BELIEVER is a call to glory and virtue. This call is based on the finished work of Christ on the cross and His resurrection from the dead. Just like we have been called to a life of victory, we have also been called to a life of consecration and separation unto God.

The word “consecration” means to sanctify, set apart, hallow or dedicate something or someone for a reserved or special purpose. The word ‘consecration’ confuses a lot of believers and teachers of the word alike. Some theologians teach that as believers we have already been consecrated or separated unto God so we do not need to be consecrated anymore. Others believe and teach that we need to consecrate ourselves unto God daily so that we can be used for His glory—Both groups are correct.

There are two kinds of consecration in the calling of the believer. When we receive Christ into our lives, we receive the nature of God and this separates us from the rest of the world. The Bible teaches us that although we live in the world, we are not of this world. We become separated unto God as His children and His own. This kind of sanctification or consecration unto God is not a product of our works or deeds, but by our faith in Christ Jesus.

And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

1 Corinthians 6:11

Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:

1 Corinthians 1:2

By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Hebrews 10:10

For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.

Hebrews 10:14

Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called:

Jude 1:1

By our faith in Jesus Christ, we are transported from the kingdom of Satan, sin, death and destruction into the kingdom of God, unto righteousness and holiness, reserved for the master's special use.

Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:

Colossians 1:13

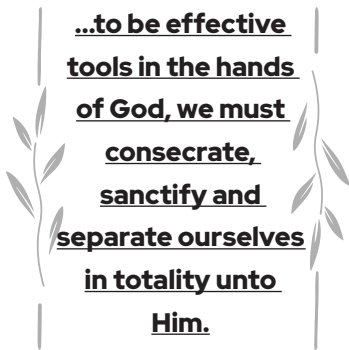
The purpose of this consecration is to bring us to a position or point where we can become tools for the salvation and liberation of others. This is the first level of consecration.

However, to be effective tools in the hands of God, we must consecrate, sanctify and separate ourselves in totality unto Him. This is the second level of consecration. Although, we have been set apart in the new birth, we must consciously

and deliberately separate ourselves from the deceit and decay in this present world.

Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.

2 Corinthians 6:17



**...to be effective
tools in the hands
of God, we must
consecrate,
sanctify and
separate ourselves
in totality unto
Him.**

God wants to take us to higher levels in Him, He wants to bring us to a place of deep fellowship with Him, where we can experience and distribute His power in greater measure, but it comes with a price—the separation of ourselves from sin and the works of the flesh. The

first separation which God has done makes it easy for us to separate ourselves to Him. The second one is really not a second one but our response to His plans. This God cannot do for us. It is our calling.

*Sanctify yourselves therefore, and be ye holy:
for I am the LORD your God.*

Leviticus 20:7

But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;

Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

1Peter 1:15–16

Separating yourself–The Word

At salvation, our spirits are recreated after God in righteousness and this makes us new creatures in Christ.

Although we have been set apart in the new birth, we must consciously and deliberately separate ourselves from the deceit and righteousness and true holiness. Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.

Ephesians 4:22–25

If we must do great exploits like the patriarchs and the Apostles, we must consecrate ourselves to the Lord. The writer of Hebrews tells us more about these great exploits–

And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gideon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets: Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped

the mouths of lions, Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection: And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, more over of bonds and imprisonment: They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

Hebrews 11:32–38

God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.

Hebrews 11:40

God has prepared greater things and exploits for us in these latter times. What is lacking in the church is that separation or consecration.

Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us

Hebrews 12:1

Separating yourself—Put away Sin

We must lay aside every weight and the sin that so easily beset us and run the race that is set before us with patience.

Sin is walking in disobedience to God or to His word in any areas of our lives. It is walking in the flesh. The works of the flesh are listed in Galatians—

Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

Galatians 5:19–21

When we walk in the flesh, we walk in unrighteousness and all unrighteousness is sin.

All unrighteousness is sin: and there is a sin not unto death.

1John 5:17

Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, Without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:

Romans 1:29–31

Sin is also more than just fornication, adultery and the likes. It is that which brings one into condemnation, which is speaking or acting apart from the word of God. It is anything apart from faith, as the Christian life in its entirety is a life of faith.

...for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.

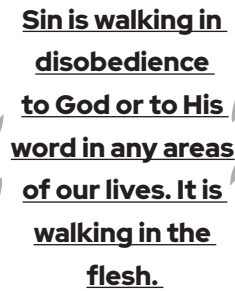
Romans 14:23

But without faith it is impossible to please him...

Hebrews 11:6

The Determination to Please God

As believers, there will always be things our flesh wants to do that will pull us back into sin but Glory be to God because there is no sin that we do not have the power over. We have the dominion over sin. All we have to do is be determined to please God. Rather than fighting sin, focus on God.



Sin is walking in disobedience to God or to His word in any areas of our lives. It is walking in the flesh.

For sin shall not have dominion over you:

Romans 6:14

For every one of us, there is the sin that easily besets, traps or surrounds us, which we have promised never to indulge in over and over again and yet it still easily traps us. The Lord wants us to give them up and lay them aside.

Separate yourself–Put away the Weights

Apart from the sin, there are also weights in our lives that

we must lay aside. A weight is something or someone that slows us down in our race and our calling. A weight might not be a sin but it impedes our spiritual progress and growth in the things of God and in the realms of the spirit. It is one step to give up the sin, but it is another step to give up the weight.

Giving up of weight is not just a onetime thing; it is a lifetime process because what is not considered a weight in one level of walk with God might be considered a weight at another level. At different levels, we might have to give up certain things or habits that give us physical pleasure but steal our affection from the things of the spirit.

I heard a great man of God once say that when he has a crusade, the Holy Spirit does not permit him to read the newspaper or mingle with the world. This is a greater level of consecration because of the enormity of the calling and responsibility. Reading the newspaper or the dailies is not a sin but at that level and time, it might be a weight.

God's word instructs us to lay aside every weight and sin and this is because we can. We have the Spirit of God in us who works in us the grace to will and to do of His good pleasure.

For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

Philippians 2:13

Other translation of Hebrews 12 verse 1 gives us more insight into what it means to lay aside every weight and sin.

...Let us strip off and throw aside

(Amplified bible)

...let us rid ourselves of everything that gets in the way..

(Good News bible)

*...and throwing off everything
(International standard version) ...let us
strip down*

(Message bible)

By the power of the Holy Spirit in us, we can strip off, throw off, strip down and rid ourselves of every weight and sin that so easily entangles us and gets in our way.

Let the Spirit help you

To lay aside is to walk in the spirit. We can never overcome sin by promising or trying to. Struggling with sin or the flesh can never free you from the flesh. The secret of

walking in the spirit and laying aside, sin is to surrender. Surrendering to the spirit is what frees us from the flesh.

For I Know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.

Romans 7:18–22

When we walk in the Spirit, we are freed from the flesh and can walk in the authority and liberty of the sons of God.

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

Romans 8:1

It is yielding to the spirit that frees us and consecrates us

unto God. To lay aside weights and sins, we must submit and give ourselves to the fruits of the spirit in us. This is what it means to walk in the spirit.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

Galatians 5: 22–23

The call to consecration is a call to all believers, a call and a cry of the spirit for a step up in relationship and fellowship with God. But, God will not force us into deeper fellowship with Himself.

And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man,

Genesis 6:3

Demons may force men but God will never force a man. When God by His spirit calls us into fellowship with Him and we resist Him continuously, He may withdraw from us—He will never force us.

The children of Israel were the chosen of God and separated specially by His wisdom. God loved them and was with them even in affliction. He showed them His mercy and gave them victory over their enemies.

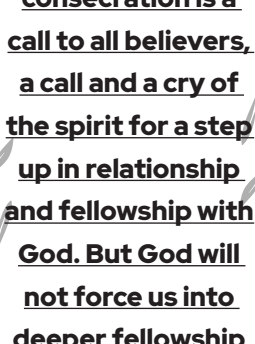
For he said, Surely they are my people, children that will not lie: so he was their Saviour. In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them: in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; and he bare them, and carried them all the days of old.

Isaiah 63:8–9

But, when they rebelled against Him and vexed Him by departing from His word and statutes, he was turned to become their enemy.

But they rebelled, and vexed his holy Spirit: therefore he was turned to be their enemy, and he fought against them.

Isaiah 63:10



The call to consecration is a call to all believers, a call and a cry of the spirit for a step up in relationship and fellowship with God. But God will not force us into deeper fellowship with Himself.

The same Spirit that bore them or carried them became their enemy. When we walk in the flesh, we oppose the Spirit, move against Him and thus walk in the curse. This is how He became their enemy, as they walked contrary to His plans.

It is always good to remember

that the Holy Spirit came to help us, like He did with the children of Israel. He bares us through affliction and challenges. Jesus called him our helper and comforter.

And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;

John 14:16

But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said

John 14:26

The Holy Spirit is with us to help, guide, lead, and direct us into God's best. So, if we will see good days, we must be careful to hear His voice.

Thus saith the LORD, thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; I am the LORD thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldest go. O that thou hadst hearkened to my commandments! then had thy peace been as a river, and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea.

Isaiah 48:17–18

We must not grieve Him by being adamant and by disregarding His voice and His wisdom. We grieve Him when we disregard His voice, go our own way and make our own decisions.

*And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God,
whereby ye are sealed unto the day of
redemption. Let all bitterness, and wrath,
and all malice:*

Ephesians 4:30–31

We also grieve Him when we walk in bitterness, anger and wrath and do the works of the flesh. When we grieve him (although he does not leave us because He promised never to leave us) He becomes silent. When we grieve Him, we may lose His voice and when we lose His voice, we lose His guidance which results in much of the mistakes we make in our lives.

This is why we must constantly consecrate ourselves in the place of prayer. We need to always pray prayers of consecration, submitting our will to the will of the Spirit.

The Prayer of Consecration

The prayer of consecration is a prayer that submits the flesh to God, a prayer that submits our ways, will and opinion to the will and opinion of God.

For every new level, there must be surrender. In the prayer of consecration, we surrender our weights and sin in prayer. Jesus shows an example of this kind of prayer in the garden of Gethsemane.

Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder. And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and very heavy. Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me.

Matthew 26:36–38

When Our Lord got to the garden, He was exceedingly sorrowful and heavy because His flesh did not want to die. Often, there are a lot of things that God demands of us, but we refuse because our flesh does not want to die. This is why a lot of believers are running out of place with God and are away from their calling. But like Jesus, we must go further, beyond our flesh into the spirit and gain mastery by the prayer of consecration.

And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me:

nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.

Matthew 26:39

And he left them, and went away

Matthew 26:44

In the prayer of consecration, you do not need to say many things. Like Jesus, you can just keep saying the same thing—‘not my will but thy will be done’. You confess your willingness to do whatever He wants you to do and go wherever He wants you to go.

I prayed this prayer many years ago, when I was struggling with my calling to pastor as I did not want the burden of taking care of sheep. I said to God “Lord I prefer to become an evangelist”. Though, I knew I had a call on my life, yet I chose the calling I wanted. And one day, I consecrated myself—I surrendered. I asked the Lord “what do you want me to do....what is your will?” And since then, I have had divinely granted appearances that have led me thus far.

The prayer of consecration is not a one time thing. You must pray it everywhere and every time until the burden is lifted and God speaks to you or visits you.

Praying the prayer of Consecration

The prayer of consecration does not select what it wants

from God, neither does it set boundaries for Him. Some people choose the part of their calling they like and despise the other that does not conform to their plans. To fully see the power of God and enjoy God's best, we must totally consecrate ourselves. But, how do we pray this prayer of consecration?

1. **Confess it:** In the prayer of consecration, we confess the desires of our hearts. We admit the desires of our flesh. One of the most important elements of this prayer is sincerity. Jesus admitted the desires of His heart by asking for the cup to pass over Him.

And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me

Matthew 26:39

In this prayer, you can admit that you do not feel like doing what God wants you to do. There is a release when you make that confession because He knows it anyhow!

2. **Renounce it:** After confessing the desires of your heart, you have to renounce it. To renounce is to formally give up a claim or right, to reject a belief, to surrender, to disown, to give up, forsake, abandon, desert or to refuse. You openly abandon, reject, forsake and give up your opinion. In renouncing, you declare that your opinion or stance is

inferior to His.

3. Celebrate the goodness and the wisdom of God:

You celebrate the goodness and wisdom of God by making declarations about the efficacy of the wisdom of God and celebrate the superiority and supremacy of His wisdom. For example you make declaration like "Father, your way is pure, your wisdom is right, your judgement is just, and whatever you say is true, you are a good God, a wise God, anyone you help is helped, anyone you guide succeeds"

Like David, you can reminisce about the past, about where God brought you from and how far He has taken you.

He chose David also his servant, and took him from the sheepfolds: From following the ewes great with young he brought him to feed Jacob his people, and Israel his inheritance.

Psalms 78:70–71

The quickest and best way to get someone's attention is to celebrate him. Celebrating the goodness and wisdom of God attracts His attention.

4. Declare your surrender: The next step is to declare your surrender to His will. Although Jesus desired that the cup will pass over Him, He still surrendered to the will of

God to die on the cross by declaring His willingness to die.

And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.

Matthew 26:39

He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done.

Matthew 26:42

In declaring your surrender, you declare your willingness to do His will, your willingness to follow His way and His path regardless of difficulties or challenges.

5. **Apply for His strength:** Even though you have chosen to do His will, you must apply for His strength in the place of your weakness. You must pray for grace and strength to remain in His purpose irrespective of the opinion of others and obstacles. You must pray for spiritual strength to remain patient even when you may feel like throwing in the towel.

Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness; Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:

Colossians 1:11–12

When Jesus prayed, an angel came and strengthened Him.

And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him.

Luke 22:43

As you apply for strength you will receive supernatural endowment from heaven to carry out God's plan as you have purposed in your heart. God is willing to supply the strength you need to surrender to His will and as you pray, you will receive it in Jesus name.

As you begin to consecrate yourself, the Holy Spirit who is the Spirit of consecration will begin to work the following in you—

- You will begin to see and your spiritual eyes will be opened to the depths of the realms of the spirit. Your eyes will become purer and your spirit will become more sensitive to the voice of the Spirit.

You will begin to see visions and see into the spirit like never before.

- Your ability to distinguish will increase so you will make fewer mistakes in life. Your ability to discern between light and darkness would greatly increase.
- You are strengthened to maintain a consecrated life style, to say no when you need to say no and say yes when you need to.

A life of consecration makes us better tools in the hand of God—vessels of honour reserved for the master's use.

*If a man therefore purge himself from these,
he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified,
and meet for the master's use, and prepared
unto every good work.*

2Timothy 2:21

CHAPTER THREE



The Prayer Of Thanksgiving

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING IS one of the most overlooked and trivialized kinds of prayer in the body of Christ today, even though it is one of the most important, as it provokes and activates the power of God on behalf of the believer.

A lot of people make requests and demands from God in the place of prayer but are quick to forget when their prayers have been answered. They are quick to forget because they do not have the right understanding of thanksgiving.

The word thanksgiving originates from the Greek word “*eucharistia*”. It is a public acknowledgement or celebration of divine goodness, a feeling and expression of gratitude or appreciation for something that has been done. It is not thanksgiving if it just ends with a feeling. It becomes

thanksgiving when we express that feeling in words or actions.

The Apostle Paul uses this term repeatedly in his writings about prayer, which goes to show that prayer is not complete without thanksgiving.

I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;

1Timothy 2:1

Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

Philippians 4:6

Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.

Colossians 2:7

Thanksgiving should not just be an addition to prayer. Rather, it is and should be an integral part of every prayer session, as it completes the circle of prayer.

Apostle Paul tells us to continue in thanksgiving the way we continue in prayer. This means that we must give thanks

as much as we pray.

*Continue in prayer, and watch in the same
with thanksgiving;*

Colossians 4:2

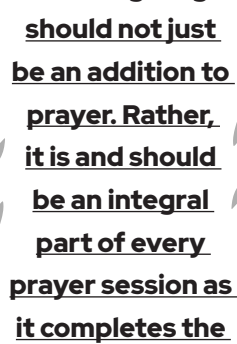
We will consider five basic aspects of thanksgiving, and how we can appropriate thanksgiving in our lives daily to receive all that God has in store for us.

1. The sanctifying power of thanksgiving.
2. The overcoming power of thanksgiving.
3. The creative power of thanksgiving.
4. The perfecting power of thanksgiving.
5. The committing power of thanksgiving.

The sanctifying power of thanksgiving

The prayer of thanksgiving sanctifies us and all that concerns us unto God. It keys you into the sanctifying power of God. To sanctify is to separate, dedicate and elevate something or someone from other things or from a group.

Thanksgiving separates us and the object of our thanksgiving



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unto God.

Thanksgiving is a declaration that the one being ‘thanked’ is the source of the object of your thanksgiving. When we pray the prayer of thanksgiving, we are declaring that God is the owner or source of the object for which we are thanking.

For instance, when I thank you for something, I am affirming that you are either the owner or the source of that thing. I cannot get a pen from you and thank someone else. That would be foolish. In the same manner, when I thank God for a blessing, a job or a child, I am declaring that God is the owner or source of that gift. In other words, I am saying God gave it to me.

In his first letter to Timothy, Apostle Paul begins to unravel more about the power in thanksgiving. He begins to speak by the spirit in verse 1 of chapter four, about the signs of the end time.

*Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that
in the latter times some shall depart from
the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits,
and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in
hypocrisy; having their conscience seared
with a hot iron;*

1Timothy 4:1

Then, in verse three, he begins to communicate a very important principle.

Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth.

1Timothy 4:3

He emphasizes the commandment to abstain from meat, a false doctrine that would signify the beginning of the end time, but then goes ahead to inform us that all meats can be eaten if received with thanksgiving by those who know the truth. But, what truth is he referring to? The next verse would tell us—

For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving:

1Timothy 4:4

This means that no meat is forbidden to the believer on the condition that it is received with thanksgiving. But why thanksgiving? Verse 5 explains it all.

For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.

1Timothy 4:5

In the light of the revelation of God's word, this scripture applies to all things as it unravels a deep spiritual principle (in the prayer of thanksgiving). When we thank God for something or about a situation which has a conclusion in His word, our thanksgiving sanctifies that situation or thing unto God, making that object of thanksgiving nothing to be refused. Halleluyah!

The declaration of thanksgiving sanctifies and purifies that object unto God as from God, making it good and perfect, as that only good and perfect gifts come from Him.

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

James 1:17

The minute you claim something has come from God through thanksgiving, that thing or situation becomes holy and separated unto God.

Armed with this revelation, you cannot thank God for a cup of tea or a plate of food and die of food poisoning. You cannot thank God for a journey and die on that journey. You cannot thank God for your child and lose that child. You cannot thank God for a job and lose it. I believe that when you thank God about an object or situation, if it

was evil, the components and elements are modified for your good and in your favour. This is why we are told to give thanks in everything and in every situation. We are never helpless, as thanksgiving gives us the advantage in all things.

*In every thing give thanks: for this is the
will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.
1Thessalonians 5:18*

In the realms of the spirit, revelation is transportation. Let this revelation transport you into a new level of thanksgiving.

The overcoming power of Thanksgiving.

Stemming from the revelation we just shared on the sanctifying power of thanksgiving, we can extend our light into another kind of sanctification or better put an effect of this sanctification which is overcoming.

*For whatsoever is born of God overcometh
the world: and this is the victory that
overcometh the world, even our faith.
1John 5:4*

Did you see that? When we thank God, we are claiming He is the source or going to be the source of our thanksgiving

or expectation. And, the scripture says that what comes from Him has overcoming power.

Thus, when I thank God for my job, looking unto Him as the source, it becomes impossible for the job to be stopped by any force, spiritual or physical because, whatever has origin in God has overcoming power.

That is another way of saying when God says yes, who can say no? Or if God be for us, who can be against us?

*What shall we then say to these things? If
God be for us, who can be against us?*

Romans 8:31

This is why you can never be delayed any further when you take the word on that situation and make it a matter of thanksgiving. That hindering force is dead! Glory to God!

The creative power of Thanksgiving

The prayer of thanksgiving has the ability to create your result and testimony. Through thanksgiving, you can transfer your rights in the spirit into physical reality.

Thanksgiving is also a declaration that you have all that you have received. I will explain this statement after this scripture.

Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

Mark 11:24

When we pray, we receive what we pray for in the realms of the spirit, but when we maintain our faith and do not doubt, we would eventually have what we have earlier received. This means that we will possess in the physical what was once only a reality in the realms of the spirit. This is the physical manifestation of our answers.

Thanksgiving is a declaration that we already possess what we prayed about. It is an act of faith and true faith always produces results, as it pleases God.

But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Hebrews 11:6

When God promised Abraham the child, he received him in the realms of the spirit, but his faith, through his thanksgiving, created or brought about a physical manifestation of Isaac.

*He staggered not at the promise of God
through unbelief; but was strong in faith,
giving glory to God;*

Romans 4:20

Through thanksgiving, you can create that heart desire of yours and bring it into manifestation. Instead of wallowing in unbelief, wondering why God's word has not come to pass in your life, break out into thanksgiving. We truly cannot see the fullness of the Goodness of God without thanksgiving. Especially in the case where what God promised you does not exist. Remember, by thanksgiving, you can actually create that thing and bring it into reality. You can access creative miracles by the power of thanksgiving.

The committing power of Thanksgiving

Imagine making a promise to someone to give him a certain amount of money and every time he sees you, instead of making a demand for the money, he keeps thanking and appreciating you like you have already done it. This provokes you to fulfil your promise against all odds. It moves him up on your list of priorities. In the same way, thanksgiving provokes a response from God.

Put me in remembrance: let us plead together: declare thou, that thou mayest be justified

Isaiah 43:26

The scripture says for us to remind God of His word. But, how are we supposed to do this? God does not forget His word. We remind Him of His word as a way of reminding ourselves of two things; that God promised and is capable. That faith in us is what makes it consistent for God to do what He has said.

For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.

Mark 11:23

It is also important to note that we do not remind Him grudgingly because a grudge is an element of doubt. Rather, we remind Him of His promises in thanksgiving. When we thank Him like this, we are positively charged in our hearts in the midst of our seemingly negative situation. We create in the spirit realm a potential difference that commits God to do what He has said. As I said earlier, He had not forgotten but our doubt hinders or makes it

inconsistent to do what He said. So, He would not fail like men do. He promises so we would be confident that it is His will to do it for us and thus, by those promises war a good warfare. Glory to God forever!

The Perfecting power of Thanksgiving

The prayer of thanksgiving perfects what God has begun to do in our lives. God wants to complete and finish His work and blessings in our lives but we must adopt a lifestyle of thanksgiving to experience this. The word “perfect” can also be translated to mean “complete, whole and lacking nothing”. It also means excellent, flawless, finished and entire”. When we live lives of consistent thanksgiving, the peace of God guards our hearts in anticipation of our answers.

Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:6–7

The word ‘*peace*’ in the above scripture is the Greek word “*shalom*” which means “nothing missing, nothing broken—a state of wholeness. This indicates that thanksgiving takes

us into a place of perfection, perfect rest and wholeness—a place where we lack nothing.

This is clearly seen in the story of the lepers who came to our Lord Jesus Christ in the book of Luke.

And as he entered into a certain village, there met him ten men that were lepers, which stood afar off: And they lifted up their voices, and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us. And when he saw them, he said unto them, Go shew yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed.

Luke 17:12–14

But, only one of them returned to give thanks to God.

And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God, And fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan.

Luke 17:15

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And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine? There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger.

Luke 17:17

The thanksgiving of a lot of believers today is missing from the throne of God, and He is constantly asking, “Were there not ten I saved from that accident, where are the nine?” “Were there not ten I gave a job or healed, where are the nine? Are you among the nine ungrateful lepers or are you that one that comes back?”

Unknown to those who fail to give thanks, perfection and completion is only meant for those who come back in gratitude and thanksgiving.

And he said unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole.

Luke 17:19

Thanksgiving finishes and perfects the blessings of God in our lives and causes the grace of God to abound and increase unto us. This is because it is the highest manifestation of faith.

For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the

*thanksgiving of many redound to the glory
of God.*

2Corinthians 4:15

The story of the grateful leper also gives us a guide on the right attitude required in the prayer of thanksgiving.

The Right Attitude for Thanksgiving

1. The timing of Thanksgiving: We must live in thanksgiving at all times, but when God blesses us, there is a right time for thanksgiving. Some people only remember to thank God at the yearly thanksgiving service of their local church. This is good but not perfect. The right time to thank God is immediately after He begins something for you. The leprous man went back to thank God immediately he realized his healing had begun, he did not delay like the others.

*And one of them, when he saw that he was
healed, turned back, and with a loud voice
glorified God,*

Luke 17:14

Delaying thanksgiving

I believe that delay in thanksgiving reduces the potency and value of your thanksgiving. So, you must thank God

not just when you feel like it, but after He does something for you whether it is big or small.

Another important time to thank God is in the face of challenges, when it seems like God's promise to you is not coming into manifestation or mountains seem to persist. In this instance, your thanksgiving is an act of faith and it activates the power of God on your behalf. Have you spoken to the situation and it does not seem to be working? Switch to a higher manifestation of faith, which is thanksgiving.

2. The tone of Thanksgiving: There is a right tone for thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is first a feeling of gratitude before it is expressed in words or actions. There is no such thing as thanksgiving without expression. I have heard people say words like "I will thank God in my mind" or "I am grateful in my heart". That is not complete thanksgiving. Thanksgiving starts in the heart but does not stop there. How would you feel about someone who you did something great for, who has refused to thank you, with the excuse that he is grateful in his heart? True thanksgiving must be expressed in heartfelt word and actions. The leper expressed his gratitude by screaming with a loud voice glorifying God.

*...when he saw that he was healed, turned
back, and with a loud voice glorified God,
Luke 17:14*

He was not ashamed or afraid of the people. This is the right tone of thanksgiving. Most times, when we have needs in prayer, we cry and lift up our voices in tears not minding the presence of any one just like the ten lepers did.

*And they lifted up their voices, and said,
Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.
Luke 17:13*

But, when we receive our miracles, we keep it to ourselves or at best murmur a quiet gratitude in our hearts. We cannot receive the perfection of God with that attitude.

Thanking God in Action

Thanksgiving can also be expressed through a sacrificial giving, a seed offering or helping the less privileged around you. This is thanking God from your substance and from that which He had blessed you with. This however has to be done in Honour.

*Honour the LORD with thy substance, and
with the firstfruits of all thine increase:
Proverbs 3:9*

Honour can be seen in the quality of your seed, in your posture and in the presentation of your seed.

3. **The Posture of thanksgiving:** There is a right posture in thanksgiving. A man who comes to present a gift to a king and stands nonchalantly or frowns is showing his disregard for the king despite what his lips may profess or the quality of his gift.

Thus, your posture in thanksgiving is as vital as your thanksgiving. The leprous man shows us an example of a right posture in the act of thanksgiving.

And fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks:

Luke 17:13

I am not saying that you have to lie down on the ground or go on your knees every time you want to thank God, but my emphasis however, is on possessing an attitude and heart of reverence and gratitude before God.

Thanksgiving is more than just words, a seed or a song. It is a spiritual substance that proceeds out of the heart of a grateful believer and it is a highly valued virtue in the realms of the spirit, commanding heavenly attention and support when activated.

Automated Thanksgiving

It is important to note that thanksgiving is like breathing. If this is really so, what is the danger of not breathing? You are right! Your spiritual life is nearing the grave because you have not learnt the act of automated thanksgiving. Automated thanksgiving is more than continuous thanksgiving, it is a lifestyle of humility that makes thanksgiving a continuous opportunity of expression.

Who are you? Yet see what God allowed you to be. With our wickedness and failure, He still loves us and approves of us. That is enough to make continuous thanksgiving on. I do not need a car to thank Him. My breath is a debt. My thanksgiving is a way of accepting His mercy of debt cancellation.

You need to constantly say thank you Lord, Glory to God in your heart and with your mouth as many times as possible. Remember, you are not making payment, you are accepting payment. That is the difference between religion and revelation. Christianity is a revelation of God.

CHAPTER FOUR



The Prayer Of Worship

IN PREVIOUS CHAPTERS, WE HAVE made reference to the prayer of worship, “*proseuche*” in the Greek. In this chapter however, we will take a deeper look at what worship is, the value of worship to God and how great men have activated the uncommon favour of God through the prayer of worship.

The Apostle Paul called worship a kind of prayer that should be made along with other kinds of prayer.

Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by PRAYER and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

Philippians 4:6

*I exhort therefore, that, first of all,
supplications, PRAYERS, intercessions,
and giving of thanks, be made for all men;
1Timothy 2:1*

The highlighted words “prayer” and “prayers” is translated as the same Greek word “*proseuche*” which means, adoration, glorification, exaltation and veneration.

Worship is more than lifting up hands. It is not a slow song or a song that has a slow rhythm. In some churches today, when worship leaders are asked to lead praise and worship, the first thought that crosses the mind is that “praise” means a fast song and worship means a slow song. This is not true. The tempo or rhythm of the song is not what makes it worship. Worship can be a fast or a slow song. It is not just a song, it is more than singing.

What is Worship?

Worship is concentrated adoration that is expressed in words, music and actions. Words and songs without concentrated adoration is not worship. It is the internal adoration that validates the external proclamation. The external proclamation of worship is a waste of time and resources if the internal adoration is not taking place. I always say that “in worship, you are no better than a cassette player if your heart is not concentrated in adoration to

God". In worship, your heart is focused on reverence, glorification, exaltation and admiration for who He is. True worship starts on the inside and is expressed on the outside.

In prayer of worship, your heart is focused on God in adoration for who He is. The focus of worship is on who God is—His person.

There are three kinds of worship: material worship, doings of worship and word worship, but the focus of this chapter is on word worship—worshipping God with our words in prayer.

God is an Emperor, and as an Emperor He deserves worship. God put resources on the earth so that as man discovers them, he will worship. God put the silver, gold, oil and other resources in the earth because of His love for us so that as man gradually unravels it, it will provoke reverence and concentrated adoration. He made diverse kinds of creatures that are still being discovered today to express His wisdom and care for us which should in turn provoke worship from man. Unfortunately today, when men discover them, they worship and glorify themselves instead of the creator.

God also created man for His worship, He created man specially and specifically to worship Him. This is why

the devil hates man so much because man was created to take his place of worship. Lucifer the devil, was created by God as an angel of worship who ministered before the very presence of God. The book of Ezekiel describes his glory and his design as a worshipper.

Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire.

Ezekiel 28:13–14

He was created specially with all manner of musical instruments meant to worship God, but he lost his place when sin was found in him.

Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.

Ezekiel 28:15

Lucifer wanted to exalt himself above his Creator and was cast out of heaven with his supporters.

*How art thou fallen
from heaven, O Lucifer,
son of the morning! how
art thou cut down to the
ground, which didst
weaken the nations! For
thou hast said in thine
heart, I will ascend into
heaven, I will exalt my
throne above the stars
of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the
congregation, in the sides of the north: I
will ascend above the heights of the clouds;
I will be like the most High. Yet thou shalt be
brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.*

**God created man
specially and
specifically to
worship Him. This
is why the devil
hates man so much
because, man was
created to take his
place of worship.**

Isaiah 14:12–15

After Satan lost his place, his mission has been to ensure that no man can take the place of worshipping God. Adam's worship of Satan in voluntary obedience, corrupted his place of worship. But, when Jesus came, Satan tried also to take over His worship by tempting Him in the wilderness.

*Again, the devil taketh him up into an
exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him*

all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and WORSHIP me.

Matthew 4:8–9

Did you see that? The focus of the temptation of Jesus was worship. Satan wanted to deceive Jesus into worshipping him by offering Him the world and its glory. Unlike Adam, Jesus overcame the devil with the Word.

Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve

Matthew 4:10

The devil is still doing the same thing to believers everywhere today, offering them the transient or momentary glory of this world in exchange for their worship. He has specially strategized to steal our worship in exchange for pleasure. Satan wants your worship by all means because, he knows by so doing, he would stop worship from God, as it is written no man can serve (worship) two masters.

Satan's strategy to steal your Worship

Satan's strategies to steal your worship are as follows;

Sin: The shortest definition of sin in this context is “misuse” The devil tries to steal your worship through the misuse of what God has given to be enjoyed. For example, sex was created by God to be enjoyed within marriage bed, which means that within the marriage bed, it is undefiled.

Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.

Hebrews 13:4

But, sex outside the marriage bed is fornication and adultery. It defiles man and thus short circuits the flow of worship to God. The worship of a defiled man is not acceptable to God.

Love of things: One way the devil steals the worship of men today is by removing their focus from the Creator to the creature. Some people worship their cars, jobs, family and houses. This is seen in how much they prioritize these things over the worship of God. I asked a young man one time why he did not come to church on a Sunday, he told me he went to check out his building project in progress that morning. His answer showed me what he values and who he worships—his house. God wants us to have these things but does not want us to worship them. When we give things God’s time and place in our lives, they become the object of our worship. These things become our God.

Knowledge: This can also be referred to as humanism, a belief in the sovereignty of man. A system of thought that is based on the human values, rather than on any supernatural authority. A man who does not believe in the existence or supremacy of God, cannot worship God. This is one of the major ways Satan is stealing the worship of many, through the emergence of atheistic thoughts and pseudo Christian groups like the new age religion who deny the existence of a supreme God or believe in the equality of a man with God.

Unbelief: The devil can steal your worship through unbelief. This unbelief can arise when problems or challenges seem not to be going away and we choose to focus our attention on our problems instead of focusing on the Lord. Focusing on your challenges diverts your worship to your challenges. No matter what happens in your life, choose to worship God.

Sickness: The devil can try to steal your worship by putting sickness and pain on your body because, he knows that a sick or weak man can hardly worship God. So, when he brings sickness, hold on to God's word concerning your health and keep your focus on God in worship. The devil will have no choice but to leave you alone.

Your time: The devil can steal your worship by making you so busy and giving you more work, so that you can

forget to worship God. This is the devil's strategy in many metropolitan cities today. Your time is your life measured up in bits, so the devil ultimately steals your life of worship when he steals your time.

Death: If the devil cannot steal your worship by sin, the love of things, humanism, unbelief, sickness, and your time, he will try to kill you, because he knows that when he steals your life, he has stolen your worship at least here on earth and the potential that your worship possesses in motivating others to do the same.

This is why we must take the prayer of worship serious. It is not just what we say before every prayer session. It shows the devil that God's plan of creating a man that will worship Him willingly has worked. It is high on God's list of priorities and what He values.

God also values your worship because, it is not just based on what He has done. Almost every man can praise God because of what He has done for them but, worship is based on an understanding of His greatness and His true nature. Worship does not depend on what is happening but on who He is. A true worshiper is thus the Joy of heaven as his worship is a declaration and announcement of who God is. To such Satan cannot help but bow.

But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.

John 4:23

The scripture above says that God seeks true worshippers. To seek is an earnest and diligent search or pursuit of someone or something. This means that God is actively in search of or in pursuit of true worshipers. Those who engage in a consistent life of worship enjoy his attention and intervention like King Hezekiah.

During the reign of King Hezekiah the king of Judah, the Assyrian threatened to take all of Judah, they had already besieged and taken Samaria and had already taken over the fenced cities of Judah.

....that Shalmaneser king of Assyria came up against Samaria, and besieged it. And at the end of three years they took it: even in the sixth year of Hezekiah, that is the ninth year of Hoshea king of Israel, Samaria was taken.

2Kings 18:9–10

Now in the fourteenth year of king Hezekiah did Sennacherib king of Assyria come up against all the fenced cities of Judah, and

took them.

2Kings 18:13

The Assyrians sent great threats and warnings to King Hezekiah with a letter, threats great enough to create fear in the heart of the king, but King Hezekiah sought the Lord, beginning with the prayer of worship before proceeding with his request.

*And Hezekiah prayed before the LORD,
and said, O LORD God of Israel, which
dwellest between the cherubims, thou art the
God, even thou alone, of all the kingdoms of
the earth; thou hast made heaven and earth.*

2 Kings 19:15

*LORD, bow down thine ear, and hear:
open, LORD, thine eyes, and see: and hear
the words of Sennacherib, which hath sent
him to reproach the living God. Of a truth,
LORD, the kings of Assyria have destroyed
the nations and their lands, And have cast
their gods into the fire: for they were no gods,
but the work of men's hands, wood and stone:
therefore they have destroyed them. Now
therefore, O LORD our God, I beseech thee,
save thou us out of his hand, that all the
kingdoms of the earth may know that thou*

art the LORD God, even thou only.

2 Kings 19:16–19

He worshiped God with great words, proclaiming His sovereignty over all the kings of the earth, declaring His ownership of the earth and His status as the only living God. This is true worship and by His worship, he moved the hand of God in his favour.

Then Isaiah the son of Amoz sent to Hezekiah, saying, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, That which thou hast prayed to me against Sennacherib king of Assyria I have heard.

2 Kings 19:20

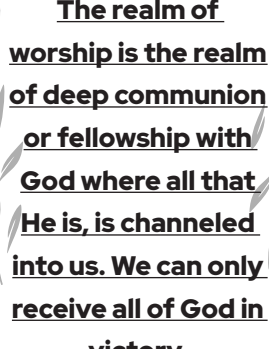
Therefore thus saith the LORD concerning the king of Assyria, He shall not come into this city, nor shoot an arrow there, nor come before it with shield, nor cast a bank against it. By the way that he came, by the same shall he return, and shall not come into this city, saith the LORD. For I will defend this city, to save it, for mine own sake, and for my servant David's sake. And it came to pass that night, that the angel of the LORD went out, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians an hundred fourscore and five

thousand: and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses. So Sennacherib king of Assyria departed, and went and returned,

2 Kings 19:32–36

In one night, the whole army of the Assyrians was destroyed by just one angel from the Lord. This shows you how our worship can provoke the extraordinary in our lives.

Worship sees beyond what God has done to who He is because, what He does proceeds from who He is. God provides for our needs and cares for us not because we always deserve it, but because of His nature of love. His benevolence to us proceeds from His nature of love and mercy. So, it is one level to praise God because of what we have seen Him do but it is a deeper level to worship Him because we see Him as He is, in His glory, beauty and love. God wants every one of us to come into this realm, the realm of worship. A realm where Satan is not an issue but a wimp! Glory to God.



**The realm of
worship is the realm
of deep communion
or fellowship with
God where all that
He is, is channeled
into us. We can only
receive all of God in
victory.**

Another example of the prayer of worship can be seen in the book of Daniel. In chapter one ,we talked about

Daniel's prayer of petition and how he sought the freedom of Israel after the seventy years of captivity had been accomplished. I would want you to notice the beginning of his prayers as he petitions for the people of Israel.

*And I prayed unto the LORD my God,
and made my confession, and said, O Lord,
the great and dreadful God, keeping the
covenant and mercy to them that love him,
and to them that keep his commandments;
Daniel 9:4*

He also begins with worship before moving on to the main issue at hand, because worship attracts the attention of God.

We also studied the petition of King Jehoshaphat when the Moabites and the Ammonites came against him in 2nd Chronicles 20 and when we look at the pattern of his petition to God, he also began with worship.

*And said, O LORD God of our fathers, art
not thou God in heaven? and rulest not thou
over all the kingdoms of the heathen? and in
thine hand is there not power and might, so
that none is able to withstand thee?
2 Chronicles 20:6*

In the New Testament, when Jesus taught His disciples to pray, He also began with the prayer of worship.

After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

Matthew 6:9

To hallow is to set apart above all or to separate something or someone from others. It connotes preference and reverence. In His prayer, Jesus was declaring God's name set apart and separated from any other name.

In conclusion, we will consider some of King David's prayers of worship and will see why he was a man after God's heart and always lived in victory.

To the chief Musician upon Gittith, A Psalm of David. O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! who hast set thy glory above the heavens.

Psalms 8:1

When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?

Psalms 8:3-4

A Psalm of David. The earth is the LORD'S, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein. For he hath founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods.

Psalms 24:1–2

For the LORD most high is terrible; he is a great King over all the earth. He shall subdue the people under us, and the nations under our feet. He shall choose our inheritance for us, the excellency of Jacob whom he loved. Selah. God is gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet. Sing praises to God, sing praises: sing praises unto our King, sing praises. For God is the King of all the earth: sing ye praises with understanding. God reigneth over the heathen: God sitteth upon the throne of his holiness. The princes of the people are gathered together, even the people of the God of Abraham: for the shields of the earth belong unto God: he is greatly exalted.

Psalms 47:2–9

To the chief Musician on Neginoth, A Psalm or Song of Asaph. In Judah is God known: his name is great in Israel. In Salem also

is his tabernacle, and his dwelling place in Zion. There brake he the arrows of the bow, the shield, and the sword, and the battle. Selah. Thou art more glorious and excellent than the mountains of prey. The stouthearted are spoiled, they have slept their sleep: and none of the men of might have found their hands. At thy rebuke, O God of Jacob, both the chariot and horse are cast into a dead sleep. Thou, even thou, art to be feared: and who may stand in thy sight when once thou art angry? Thou didst cause judgment to be heard from heaven; the earth feared, and was still, When God arose to judgment, to save all the meek of the earth. Selah.

Psalms 76:1–9

The LORD reigneth, he is clothed with majesty; the LORD is clothed with strength, wherewith he hath girded himself: the world also is stablished, that it cannot be moved. Thy throne is established of old: thou art from everlasting. The floods have lifted up, O LORD, the floods have lifted up their voice; the floods lift up their waves. The LORD on high is mightier than the noise of many waters, yea, than the mighty waves of the sea. Thy testimonies are very sure: holiness

becometh thine house, O LORD, for ever.

Psalms 93:1–5

For the LORD is great, and greatly to be praised: he is to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the nations are idols: but the LORD made the heavens. Honour and majesty are before him: strength and beauty are in his sanctuary. Give unto the LORD, O ye kindreds of the people, give unto the LORD glory and strength.

Psalms 96:4–7

O praise the LORD, all ye nations: praise him, all ye people. For his merciful kindness is great toward us: and the truth of the LORD endureth for ever. Praise ye the LORD.

Psalms 117:1–2

Although, King David was a man of great tribulation, he was also a man of great worship. King David understood that his battles were not bigger than his God, so he chose to focus on the might and glory of his God, rather than focus on his challenges.

The realm of worship is the realm of deep communion or fellowship with God where all that He is, is channelled into us. We can only receive all of God in worship.

THE PRAYER OF WORSHIP

This is why God is seeking for worshippers. He knows that worshippers are victorious! Halleluyah.

CHAPTER FIVE



The Prayer Of Faith

FAITH IS ONE OF THE most essential elements in prayer because without faith we cannot please God and if we cannot please Him, we cannot get answers to our prayers. All prayers require faith whether it is the prayer of consecration, thanksgiving, petition e.t.c—faith in the existence of God and faith in His ability to reward those who come to Him in prayer.

The writer of Hebrews puts it this way—

But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Hebrews 11:6

Anyone who comes to God in prayer, no matter the kind of prayer, must believe that God is. This means that He exists and that He rewards those who come to Him with answers to their prayers. This is the first level or first step in faith.

Also, when we get saved we receive the measure of faith, the faith that gives us confidence to come before the presence of God without fear or inferiority—

For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

Romans 12:3

Every believer that is saved, including you, has received the measure of faith. It is a definite measure given to us at the point of salvation.

But, in this chapter, our focus is not on the generic faith required in all kinds of prayer but on the prayer of faith. Apostle James identified this kind of prayer in the book of James.

And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he

have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.

James 5:15

The prayer of faith is the kind of prayer that saves the sick and by this prayer sins are forgiven. The prayer of faith is based on the revealed word and promise of God. It is based on a revelation of God's word or a *Rhema*. It is a prayer offered in faith understanding the will of God and the benefits of the death and resurrection of Christ.

*But he was wounded for our transgressions,
he was bruised for our iniquities: the
chastisement of our peace was upon him;
and with his stripes we are healed.*

Isaiah 53:5

*Who his own self bare our sins in his own
body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins,
should live unto righteousness: by whose
stripes ye were healed.*

1 Peter 2:24

What is the Prayer of Faith?

In the prayer of faith, the will of God is not in question. This means that the will of God concerning the subject of prayer is clearly spelt out in scriptures or must have come

to you as a *rhema*. For example as believers we have been given divine health in the package of salvation. God's will concerning our health is obvious and clearly stated in His word. The divine health of the believer is clearly articulated in scriptures, so when we come to God in prayers concerning our health, we should not be praying the prayer of petition or supplication, we should be praying the prayer of faith laying hold on God's promises for our lives. This is why the prayer of faith will save the sick because it draws from God's provision for healing that is already available by Christ death and resurrection.

When we go to God to pray concerning elements like the weather or issues that have to do with other people, we might not know God's perfect will about the situation. This is why we supplicate or intercede until we receive a *rhema*. But, concerning issues like our health, life and comfort where the will of God is definite, it becomes easier for us to pray the prayer of faith.

Going to God in prayer and petitioning God to give you wealth or to heal you is not consistent with the new covenant between God and the believer. The death of Jesus on the cross was an exchange. Christ took our diseases and sicknesses and gave us divine health, He took our poverty and gave us riches.

For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.

2Corinthians 8:9

So, the prayer of faith is simply taking God at His word and asking Him to fulfil His word irrespective of our feelings, present condition or circumstances. It is simply saying "Lord you said in your word that I am healed so, I take advantage of that promise and activate my package of divine health in Jesus name. Amen".

In the prayer of faith, we make our request in the name of Jesus, the name given to us by the father and we must ask according to His will. It is only when we ask according to His will that He hears us and we can have what we desire.

And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

1John 5:14

It is a one-time Prayer

The prayer of faith is a one-time prayer, which needs no repetition. This is unlike the prayer of petition which you need to repeat and repeat until there is a note of victory.

**Going to God
in prayer and
petitioning God to
give you wealth or
to heal you is not
consistent with
the new covenant
between God and
the believer.**

*And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt. He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done.
Matthew 26:39, 42*

Jesus prayed, again and again in the Garden of Gethsemane until it became clear in His spirit what God's will was about His situation. This repetition in prayer is necessary when we pray prayers of petition, consecration, thanksgiving and so on. However, this is needless when we pray the prayer of faith.

Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them

Mark 11:24

Faith believes it has received even if there is no physical manifestation of the miracle or blessing. This is quite challenging for a lot of believers because, it is believing you have received something you cannot see physically, but this is the characteristic of faith.

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Hebrews 11:1

To pray the prayer of faith twice is to cancel the answer as you cannot request the second time for what you claimed you received the first time.

Some persons believe that they have received but in time, they doubt and this stops the manifestation of their blessing.

If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the

sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.

James 1:5–7

This is why we must study the word of God, and spend time to meditate on the word, so that we can cast down every imagination that wants to exalt itself against the word of promise we have received, meditating to remove doubt from our hearts.

Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

2Corinthians 10:5

Some people want to make themselves believe just by an act of will. You cannot just make yourself have faith or try to convince yourself to believe. Faith comes only by hearing the word of God.

So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Romans 10:17

I want you to notice that it says ‘hearing and hearing.’

This is indicative of a continuous process. We must keep hearing and hearing until doubt is totally dispelled.

This also means that the more time you spend hearing and meditating on the word of God, the more faith you have. The faith required in the prayer of faith comes from the word of God. So, if you need more faith to make God's promises for your life tangible, you need more word—more faith equals more word.

This shows us why the majority of believers are not enjoying the benefits of Christianity. They claim to have prayed but do not see the results. The prayer of faith is not just a declaration of our rights in Christ Jesus. It stems from an understanding of the will of God and gives the believer the responsibility of remaining in the word—in meditation so that he can receive all that is rightfully his. The bible says that God has given us all things that pertain to life and Godliness.

*According as his divine power hath given
unto us all things that pertain unto life and
godliness, through the knowledge of him that
hath called us to glory and virtue:*

2 Peter 1:3

The prayer of faith is laying a demand on what is rightfully yours by the finished work of Christ. It lays hold without

doubt, believing that God who has promised is able to fulfil His word.

This prayer receives from God what is already done. We see a beautiful example of the prayer of faith in Mark chapter 9 when Jesus prayed for a boy with the dumb and deaf spirit.

When Jesus saw that the people came running together, he rebuked the foul spirit, saying unto him, Thou dumb and deaf spirit, I charge thee, come out of him, and enter no more into him. And the spirit cried, and rent him sore, and came out of him: and he was as one dead; insomuch that many said, He is dead.

Mark 9:25–26

Notice when Jesus prayed for the boy, the next thing you see is that it was as though he was dead. The case seemed to have worsened. But, Jesus not only knew the word, He was the word. He just went ahead and picked him up. He did not pray again.

But Jesus took him by the hand, and lifted him up; and he arose.

Mark 9:27

Notice Peter also at the gate of beautiful—

*Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none;
but such as I have give I thee: In the name of
Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.*

Acts 3:6

When he prayed for the man impotent at his feet, nothing happened. He could have gone on to pray again. But, because he prayed in faith, he knew it was already settled. He went ahead and picked him up. Then the healing manifested.

*And he took him by the right hand, and lifted
him up: and immediately his feet and ankle
bones received strength. And he leaping up
stood, and walked, and entered with them
into the temple, walking, and leaping, and
praising God.*

Acts 3:7–8

When we pray the prayer of faith, we only have to thank God and rejoice in His name. We do not thank Him because we see the evidence with our eyes, neither do we so we might move Him to do it. Instead, we thank Him because He has already done it. If He has done it, we do not need Him to do it again. Our faith is our evidence. Glory to God!

CHAPTER SIX



Warfare Prayers

THE PRAYER OF WARFARE OR the prayer of “binding and loosing” is one of the most mentioned subjects in the church, yet it is one of the most misunderstood kinds of prayer. The perspective from which the prayer has been imagined has led a lot of believers into errors and deception. In this chapter, we will discuss the subject of warfare, expose the deception of Satan and the power of the believer in the place of prayer.

The word ‘warfare’ simply means the ‘act of engaging in a war or battle’. Despite what we see with our eyes physically, there is a battle raging in the realms of the spirit—between light and darkness. The gate of hell has failed ever before the battle began.

*And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter,
and upon this rock I will build my church;
and the gates of hell shall not prevail against
it.*

Matthew 16:18

And, like in every battle, there is an adversary. The adversary of the church and believers today, is Satan and his army. Although the devil uses men and works through them to carry out his assignment, he is the enemy!

*sober, be vigilant; because your adversary
the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about,
seeking whom he may devour:*

1 Peter 5:8

Our focus in this kind of prayer must not be men and women who might be used by the devil as some Christians do. The bible says that we wrestle not against flesh and blood.

*For we wrestle not against flesh and blood,
but against principalities, against powers,
against the rulers of the darkness of this
world, against spiritual wickedness in high
places.*

Ephesians 6:12

Your true enemy is not man, not your father or your siblings. Your true enemy is the devil. The prayer of warfare that focuses on the destruction of men perceived as enemies is not the perfect will of God. It has led to accusation, caused rifts and brought division to families and relationships. This is not the will of God. God expects us to love men but bind the demons behind their negative actions.

Although in some cases, the Lord can lead us to begin to execute judgement on men who are Satan's tools and agents. In such cases, God permits us to sentence them to judgement with our words for all the evil they have participated in. This judgement can be a judgement of Death, or for them to suffer the same problems they have placed on others. We are the judges of the earth and God can execute judgement on the wicked through us.

Therefore prophesy against them, prophesy, O son of man. And the Spirit of the LORD fell upon me, and said unto me, Speak; Thus saith the LORD; Thus have ye said, O house of Israel: for I know the things that come into your mind, every one of them. Ye have multiplied your slain in this city, and ye have filled the streets thereof with the slain. Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Your slain whom ye have laid in the midst of it, they are the flesh, and this city is the caldron:

but I will bring you forth out of the midst of it. Ye have feared the sword; and I will bring a sword upon you, saith the Lord GOD. And I will bring you out of the midst thereof, and deliver you into the hands of strangers, and will execute judgments among you. Ye shall fall by the sword; I will judge you in the border of Israel; and ye shall know that I am the LORD. This city shall not be your caldron, neither shall ye be the flesh in the midst thereof; but I will judge you in the border of Israel: And ye shall know that I am the LORD: for ye have not walked in my statutes, neither executed my judgments, but have done after the manners of the heathen that are round about you. And it came to pass, when I prophesied, that Pelatiah the son of Benaiah died. Then fell I down upon my face, and cried with a loud voice, and said, Ah Lord GOD! wilt thou make a full end of the remnant of Israel?

Ezekiel 11:4–13

However, our warfare is not with man or men. It is with Satan and his organized system of operation, yet men can suffer the consequences of yielding themselves to Satan. We see this also when Elijah slaughtered the prophets of Baal.

And Elijah said unto them, Take the prophets of Baal; let not one of them escape. And they took them: and Elijah brought them

1 Kings 18:40

We also see judgement on Bar Jesus in the New Testament by the hand of the Apostle Paul for withstanding the word of God.

But Elymas the sorcerer (for so is his name by interpretation) withstood them, seeking to turn away the deputy from the faith. Then Saul, (who also is called Paul,) filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on him, And said, O full of all subtilty and all

mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord? And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon thee, and thou shalt be blind, not seeing the sun for a season. And immediately there fell on him a mist and a darkness; and he went about seeking some to lead him by the

Your true enemy is not man, not your father or your siblings. Your true enemy is the devil. The prayer of warfare that focuses on the destruction of men perceived as enemies is not the perfect will of God.

hand. Then the deputy, when he saw what was done, believed, being astonished at the doctrine of the Lord.

Acts 13:8–12

But, all these judgement were not initiated by men or out of offence. They were the sovereign judgement of the Almighty God by His Spirit through men. These are not warfare but declarations of judgement in a spiritual conflict.

Now let us consider other translations of our text from Ephesians 6 verse 12–

For we are not wrestling with flesh and blood [contending only with physical opponents], but against the despotisms, against the powers, against [the master spirits who are] the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spirit forces of wickedness in the heavenly (supernatural) sphere.

Ephesians 6:12(AMP)

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Ephesians 6:12(NIV)

It is therefore clear that our battle or warfare is not against flesh and blood but against Satan and his demons.

This scripture also identifies the organizational structure of Satan's army. It identifies four strata in Satan's hierarchy.

Principalities: The Greek origin of the word 'principalities' is the word *ARCHE* it is often interpreted to mean fallen archangels.

Powers: It is gotten from the Greek word *EKSOUSIAS*, "commissioned officers"; therefore, a secondary group of demonic rulers.

Rulers of the darkness of this world: This is the third level in Satan's army. They are responsible for keeping men in darkness.

Spiritual wickedness in high places: They are often called wicked spirits in other translations. They are wicked spirits in the atmosphere.

There are many schools of thought and theological arguments as to the order of these groups, which is most and least prominent. For me, I really do not think that should be a problem as they are all defeated already.

Whether they are principalities, powers, rulers or wicked

spirits, their assignment is to do the following—

1. Hinder the work of God—They work hard to hinder God's plan and purpose.

But we, brethren, being taken from you for a short time in presence, not in heart, endeavoured the more abundantly to see your face with great desire. Wherefore we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; but Satan hindered us.

1Thessalonians 2:17–18

2. Deceive and mislead men—These spirits would go any length to deceive men into destruction.

But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

2Corinthians 11:3

3. Blind people—The power of these spirits can only function in darkness. Hence, they labour to ensure that the light never reaches man, so that they can continue to dominate him.

But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

2 Corinthians 4:3

4. Tempt people—These spirits continually entice men to walk out of the will of God.

Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency.

1 Corinthians 7:5

5. Attempt to penetrate the body of Christ—Many of the errors or erroneous doctrines today within the church have been perpetrated by these spirits.

For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness;

whose end shall be according to their works.
2Corinthians 11:13–15

*Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in
the latter times some shall depart from the
faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and
doctrines of devils;*

1Timothy 4:1

6. Buffet or attack God's people—They lurk along the borders of the church looking for a broken hedge so they can penetrate and buffet the children of Light.

*And lest I should be exalted above measure
through the abundance of the revelations,
there was given to me a thorn in the flesh,
the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I
should be exalted above measure.*

2Corinthians 12:7

All of Satan's plan and strategies is ultimately to lead man to hell and eternal damnation in the lake of fire.

When some believers hear about the prayer of warfare, they get scared, and many do not want to get involved because they lack an understanding of their authority in Christ and the power they possess in the name of Jesus. We have heard instances of people who engaged in the prayer of

warfare and came out victims of demonic attack and some even lost their lives. This is ignorance gone on rampage.

We have authority to bind and loose, but to successfully do this, we must fully understand our place and authority in Christ Jesus, the power in the name of Jesus and our licence to use that name. We must understand also that warfare prayers are an enforcement of the word which indicates Christ's triumph over Satan and his forces. We do not try to gain the victory because Christ already did that. We simply enforce it.

Your Authority in Christ Jesus

The believer's place or position is a position of authority. The believer is hid in Christ and seated in heavenly places.

*For ye are dead, and your life is hid with
Christ in God.*

Colossians 3:3

*Even when we were dead in sins, hath
quicken'd us together with Christ, (by grace
ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together,
and made us sit together in heavenly places
in Christ Jesus:*

Ephesians 2:5-6

Although, we move and live like ordinary men, we are not ordinary. Our citizenship is not of this world.

But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,

Hebrews 12:22

But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people
1Peter 2:9

We are citizens of heaven and in the spirit we are seated with Christ in heavenly places, far above all principalities and powers.

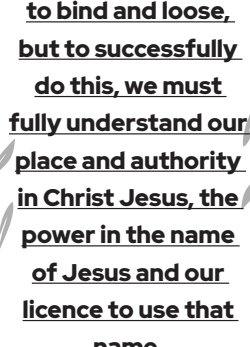
Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church,

Ephesians 1:21–22

Please notice the phrase ‘*far above*’, this means that we are untouchable. We cannot be accessed by demonic spirits. They lack the ability to reach us by virtue of our location

in Christ. This must become a working knowledge in you. It must be a revelation in your spirit even when you are asleep.

I want you to also notice the word ‘*all*’, meaning that we have been placed beyond the reach of all principalities and powers, no matter how great they may seem. Some teachers have taught that the believer does not have authority over all principalities. This is not true. See the words of Jesus Himself in Luke chapter 10—



**We have authority
to bind and loose,
but to successfully
do this, we must
fully understand our
place and authority
in Christ Jesus, the
power in the name
of Jesus and our
licence to use that
name.**

*Behold, I give unto you power to tread on
serpents and scorpions, and over all the
power of the enemy: and nothing shall by
any means hurt you.*

Luke 10:19

What other confirmation do we need to believe that all principalities, powers, rulers and wicked spirits are under our feet greater than the words of Jesus Himself? And, He also informs us that nothing shall by any means hurt us. What a comfort!

So, in this warfare, we are not wrestling with these demons at the same level with them. We are wrestling from a point of advantage and authority, assured of the outcome. We are not just trying to overcome them, we are playing out or displaying our victory over them, obtained by the death and resurrection of Christ.

Every believer must fully understand this to effectively war in the place of prayer. You must remember that an effective prayer life is tied to an in-depth knowledge and insight into the word of God.

The Power in the Name of Jesus

By virtue of Christ obedience to the father in dying on the cross and by His resurrection, God gave Him a name that is superior to any other name.

Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus

*every knee should bow, of things in heaven,
and things in earth, and things under the
earth; And that every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God
the Father.*

Philippians 2:6–11

By the authority invested in that name, every knee should bow. Some Bible teachers have supposed that the higher the demon spirit in Satan's hierarchy, the more power is needed to rebuke it. This is not true.

There is no demonic power including Satan himself that will not flee in the name of Jesus. We could not have gotten a better name. Halleluyah! The problem is not in the name but in the people who use the name. Many people call the name or use the name without an understanding of the name. Others use the name without faith in His name. Apostle Peter healed the lame man at the gate of the temple in the name of Jesus and he reveals another factor that activated the healing.

*And his name through faith in his name
bath made this man strong, whom ye see
and know: yea, the faith which is by him
bath given him this perfect soundness in the
presence of you all.*

Acts 3:16

An understanding of the name of Jesus and faith in the name is what activates the power bestowed on the name.

And, at His ascension, Jesus gave us the licence to use His name. A license is a legal or official permit to do or to use something. It is an authorization to do something. The believer has the legal permit or authorization to use the name of Jesus and expect compliance at every level just as though Jesus was present Himself.

And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

Mark 16:17

The first permit we have is to cast out devils in the name of Jesus, whether they are principalities, powers or wicked spirits. We have the authorization or authority to cast them out, out of our lives, families and nation. In the next part, we will study more about the name of Jesus as an instrument in prayer.

In the prayer of warfare, we contend for spiritual territories, contend for the souls and liberation of men and we enforce

our rights and privileges as believers.

Contending for Territories

When Adam sinned, he lost the authority over the earth, which fell to Satan, though the earth belongs to God.

*A Psalm of David. The earth is the LORD'S,
and the fulness thereof; the world, and they
that dwell therein.*

Psalms 24:1

*For the earth is the Lord's, and the fulness
thereof.*

1 Corinthians 10:26

The earth is under Satan's authority as long as Adam's lease is still on. The proof that the earth is presently leased to Satan is seen in the confidence with which he made this declaration to Jesus in the wilderness.

*Again, the devil taketh him up into an
exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him
all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory
of them; And saith unto him, All these things
will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and
worship me.*

Matthew 4:8–9

And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it.

Luke 4:5–6

In Luke's account of this story, please notice the phrase '*for that it was delivered to me*'. The question is by Who? Who delivered the world to Satan? The world was delivered or given to Satan by Adam. This was why he could confidently speak as the one in charge of the world and its kingdoms.

The purpose of the sacrifice of Christ was to deliver the race of man from the authority of Satan. This has been completed. When you get born again, you live in Christ so you are not under Adam's lease. But, the world and its systems remain under the control of Satan. This is why he is referred to as the god of this world.

In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not,

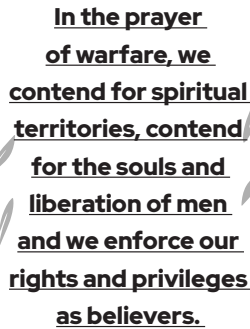
2Corinthians 4:4

In the prayer of warfare, we contend for territories in the name of Jesus, we contend for the nations because as long

as Satan has strong hold over these nations, the men in those nations and territories will remain under bondage. We contend for the souls of men Satan is holding illegally because Christ already paid the price for their liberation.

Jesus instructed us to take the Gospel to all the nations of the earth, but, we cannot do this effectively if we do not tackle the demonic spirits and strong holds over these cities. In some nations, there are strongholds of religion, for example Islam. In some other nations, there are

strong hold of immorality and all manner of perversion. To take these nations, we must contend in the place of prayer. We must first bind the strong man of that nation before we can take possession of his goods—



**In the prayer
of warfare, we
contend for spiritual
territories, contend
for the souls and
liberation of men
and we enforce our
rights and privileges
as believers.**

Or else how can one enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong man? and then he will spoil his house.

Matthew 12:29

No man can enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he will first bind the strong man; and then he will spoil his

house.

Mark 3:27

When a strong man armed keepeth his palace, his goods are in peace: But when a stronger than he shall come upon him, and overcome him, he taketh from him all his armour wherein he trusted, and divideth his spoils.

Luke 11:21–22

The scriptures show us an example of a strong man in charge of the territory of Persia in the book of Daniel.

Then said he unto me, Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words. But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia.

Daniel 10:12

The Prince of Persia was not a physical man or the physical king of Persia. He was a demonic spirit in charge of the territory of Persia who withstood the angel sent to Daniel.

But, the arch angel was sent as reinforcement to quicken Daniel's answer.

Beyond the presidents and governments of nations that we see physically, there are demonic spirits in charge of these territories, that try to stop the prevalence of the Gospel and stop believers from receiving answers to their prayers. These demons cause these governments to make laws that hinder the spread of the Gospel.

We cannot take territories for our kingdom and expand the frontiers of the kingdom of God, if we do not wrestle in the place of prayer. By virtue of the authority in Christ Jesus, we are the stronger man, we are made stronger by the Holy Spirit in us, stronger than all the demons of hell, including the devil himself. So we can bind the demons in charge of territories, cause them to retreat and liberate the men in those territories. We cannot stop those demons from existing in those regions, but we can operate the kingdom and make it difficult and impossible for them to function in those regions.

Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

1John 4:4

Contending for the souls and liberation of men

Any man that is not saved is under the authority and control of Satan and is doomed for hell. Although, Jesus has made salvation available to all men and God's desire is to see all men receive this salvation, we must contend for their liberation and for the salvation of their souls through warfare prayers.

For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

Luke 19:10

For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

1Timothy 2:3–4

The people of this world cannot receive the gospel of Christ because, they have been blinded by the god of this world—the devil.

But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto

them.

2 Corinthians 4:3–4

The Gospel we preach is not visible to them or has not been revealed to them because, they have been blinded by Satan, the god of this world. It is this same spirit that works in them to live the rebellious and disobedient life that they live.

Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

Ephesians 2:2–4

In the prayer of warfare, we bind every demonic spirit keeping them in bondage and command their eyes and their minds to be opened in the name of Jesus. We also pray for the outpouring of the Spirit upon all men because, the active presence of the Spirit liberates men.

Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the vail shall be taken away. Now the Lord

is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

2Corinthians 3:16–17

It is not enough to desire to see men liberated from the hold of Satan, it is important that we spend time praying and warring for the salvation of souls in our locality and in the world at large.

And I said, Who art thou, Lord? And he said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest. But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee; Delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee, To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

Act 26:15–18

It is our calling to open the eyes of men and turn them from Satan. We have the power and that is what warfare

prayers is all about.

Enforcing our rights in Christ Jesus

Through the prayer of warfare, we can enforce our rights and privileges in Christ Jesus. Our right to divine health, our right to prosperity, and all that God has given to us will not just drop into our laps. This is where binding and loosing comes in. Just because we have these rights, does not mean that the devil will not try to oppress us. The Bible says that the devil moves around constantly seeking who he will devour.—

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

1 Peter 5:8

And sadly, he has devoured a lot of believers with sickness, disease, poverty and destruction. His sole mission is to steal, kill and to destroy.

The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

John 10:10

But, as believers today, we must stand our ground and refuse to be entangled in the bondage of disease and death. We must bind him; command him to take his hands off all that concerns us. We must say no to his plans and maintain our confession no matter what we see or feel. The devil always responds to steadfast faith. He will flee.

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

James 4:7

Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

1 Peter 5:9

In this battle or warfare, we are sure of victory because the weapons or instruments we fight with are not ordinary.

(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;

2 Corinthians 10:4

Our weapons are mighty through God for the pulling down of strong holds and high things that try to exalt itself against the pre-eminence of the knowledge of God. By the power and armoury of God available to us which is His

word, we are sure to triumph always and in every place.

*Now thanks be unto God, which always
causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh
manifest the savour of his knowledge by us
in every place.*

2Corinthians 2:14

Glory to God!

CHAPTER SEVEN



The Prayer Of Agreement

THE PRAYER OF AGREEMENT IS the last kind of prayer we will consider. This kind of prayer is based on the teaching of Jesus in Matthew chapter 18 verse 19.

Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.

Matthew 18:19

Jesus tells us that if at least two believers agree and ask with regards to anything on the earth, it will be done for them by the father. This is a very clear statement made by the Lord Jesus and it shows us the power of agreement. This should make us shout for joy because in agreement with other believers, we can cause changes in every area

of our lives, nothing will be impossible to us.

Please notice that Jesus did not say “it may be done or there is a high probability that it will be done” He makes a sure declaration that ‘*it shall be done*’, no arguments about it. This a kind of prayer that we really need to take advantage of today.

As a believer, you can do more in agreement with others than you can alone. The bible tells us in the book of Leviticus chapter 26 verse 8 and in Deuteronomy chapter 32 verse 30 that one can chase a thousand and two can chase ten thousand.

And five of you shall chase an hundred, and an hundred of you shall put ten thousand to flight: and your enemies shall fall before you by the sword.

Leviticus 26:8

How should one chase a thousand, and two put ten thousand to flight, except their Rock had sold them, and the LORD had shut them up?

Deuteronomy 32:30

In other words, you can do ten times as much with someone agreeing with you. It means that with one other believer

agreeing with you, you have the ability of ten men, and you can achieve much more in the place of prayer because two are better than one.

*Two are better than one; because they have
a good reward for their labour.*

Ecclesiastes 4:9

There must not be a large number of people for the prayer of agreement to work. This prayer requires just two on earth, agreeing and then asking according to God's word. It can be a husband and wife or simply two believers like Paul and Silas.

Paul and Silas had been arrested, beaten, bound and put in prison for preaching the Gospel.

*Who, having received such a charge, And at
midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang
praises unto God: and the prisoners heard
them.*

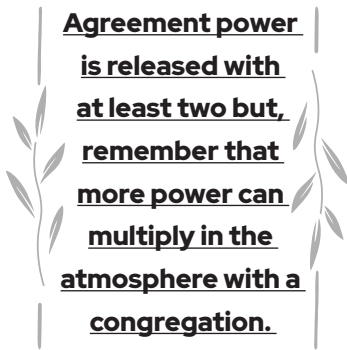
Acts 16:24–25

But, instead of crying and complaining, they lifted up their voices in agreement, prayed and praised God together and as they prayed and praised, something happened.

*And suddenly there was a great earthquake,
so that the foundations of the prison were
shaken: and immediately all the doors were
opened, and every one's bands were loosed.*

Acts 16:26

As they prayed and praised, the jail was shaken and the stocks that bound their hands and their feet was loosed.



**Agreement power
is released with
at least two but,
remember that
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atmosphere with a
congregation.**

And, even other prisoners were loosed too. This is what the prayer of agreement can do.

Most times, this scripture is taught in reference to praise, but you will notice that the first thing the scriptures said is that they prayed. They prayed in one accord and praised and

the power of God was manifested to deliver them.

The prayer of agreement can also involve a large number of believers like we see in Acts 4. Peter and John had just healed the crippled man at the gate called beautiful and they were taken in by the authorities to be questioned. Afterwards, they were threatened by the Pharisees and the Sadducees not to preach and teach the Gospel anymore. They departed into their own company and we see how they reacted to the threats in verse 24.

And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is:

Acts 4:24

They lifted up their voices in one accord, in agreement unto the Lord to make the threats known to Him. And, we see the results of their prayer of agreement in verse 31—

And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.

Acts 4:31

The power of God and grace they needed to continue their assignment without fear was released and we see the effect in verse 33—

And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all.

Acts 4:33

From the two examples we have studied, we can see that

the power of God can be released on our behalf when we come before God in agreement with other believers concerning the changes we intend to effect. The power of corporate prayers in unity cannot be over emphasized. This is why people get answers in a programme, because of the agreement of the church. It is when we achieve this or attain such agreement that the greatest healings and miracles have occurred.

Agreement power is released with at least two but remember that more power can multiply in the atmosphere with a congregation. This is why your fellowship with the brethren—going to church is very important and actually causes a lot to be accomplished, more than you can possibly realize.

Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

Hebrews 10:25

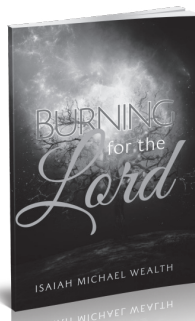
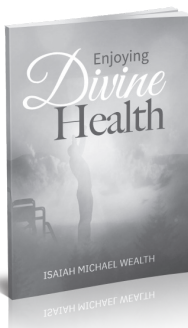
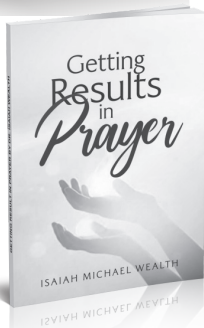
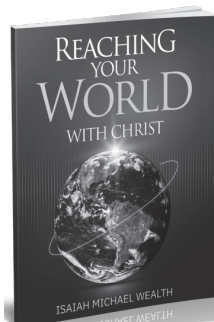
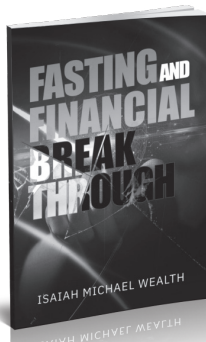
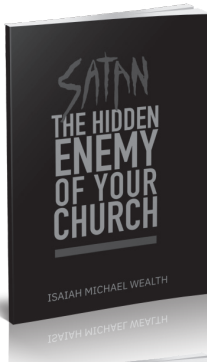
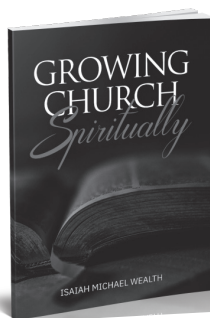
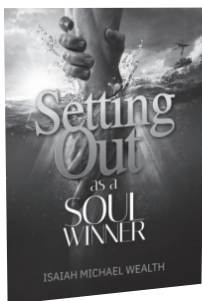
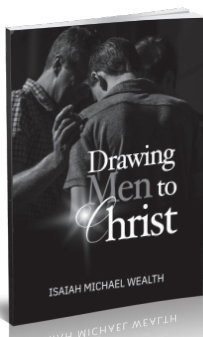
And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do.

Genesis 11:6

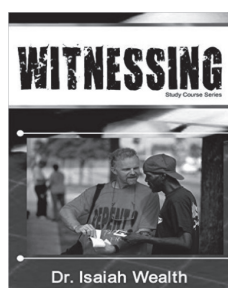
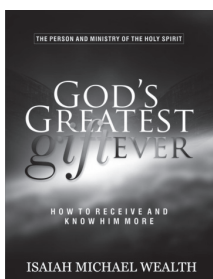
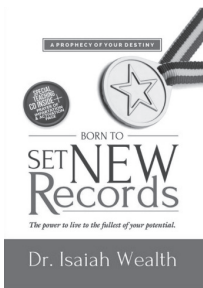
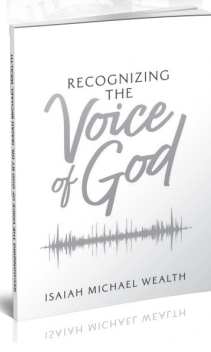
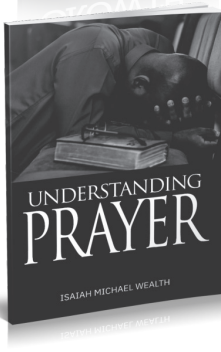
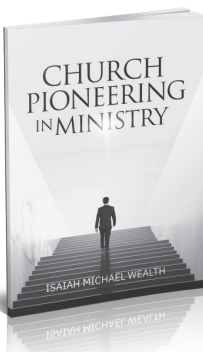
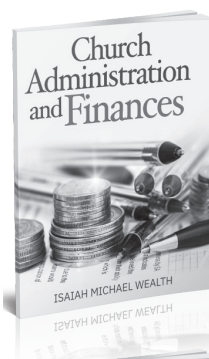
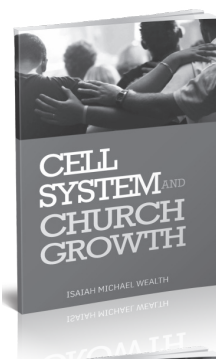
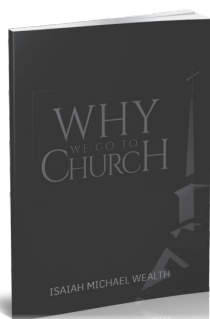
And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

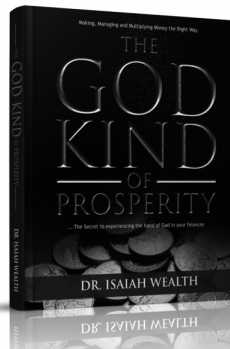
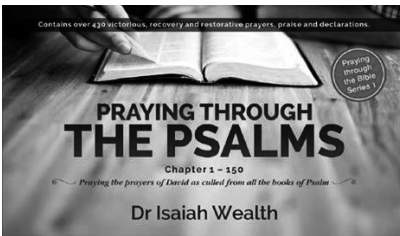
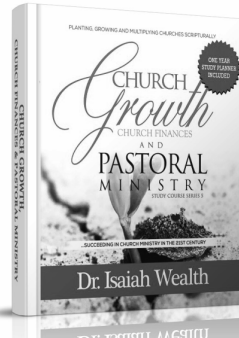
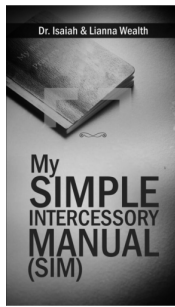
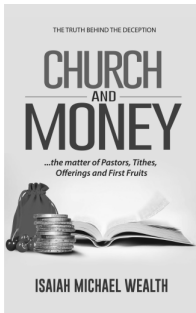
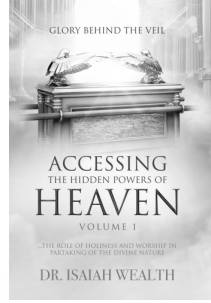
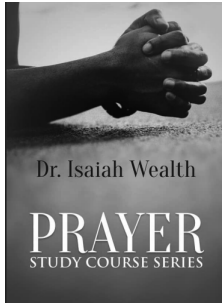
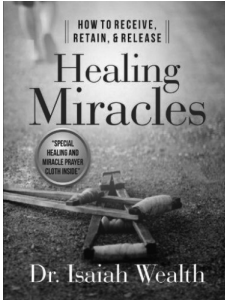
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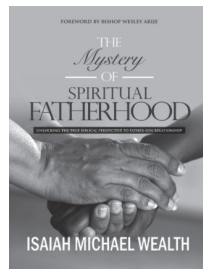
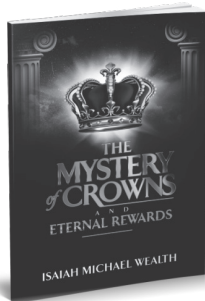
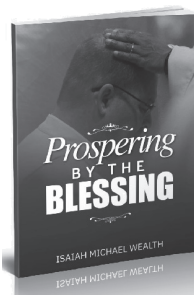
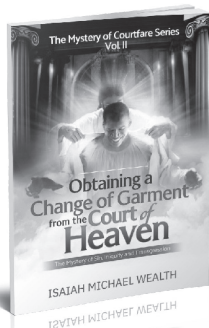
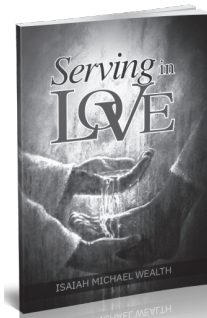
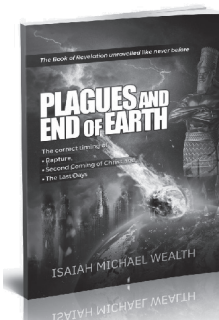
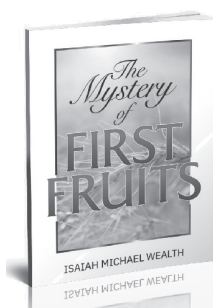
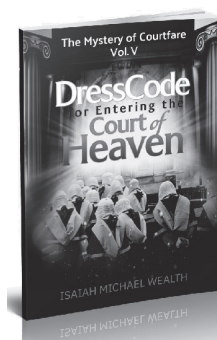
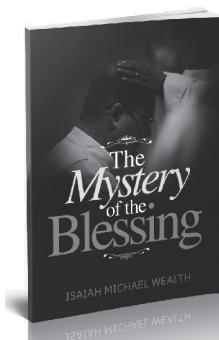
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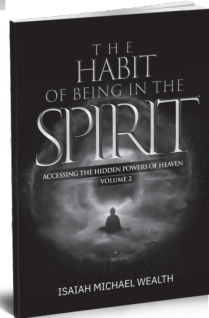
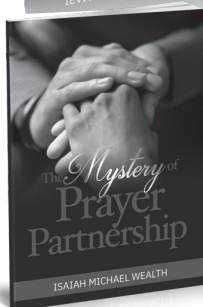
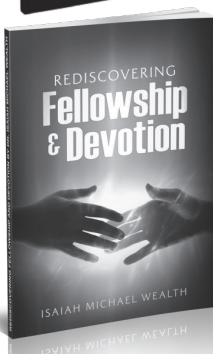
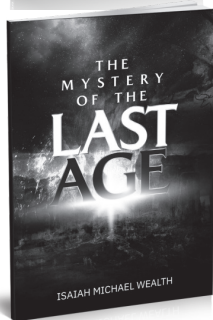
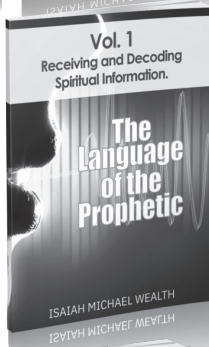
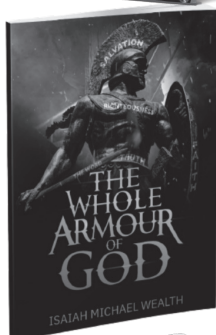
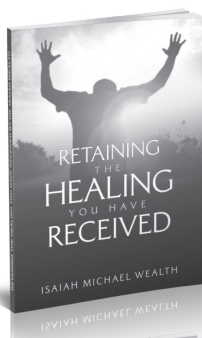
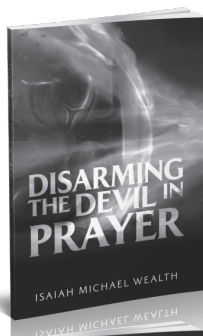
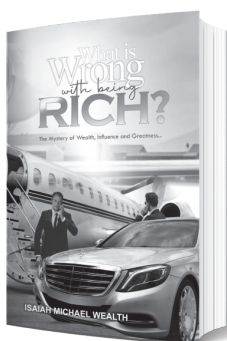


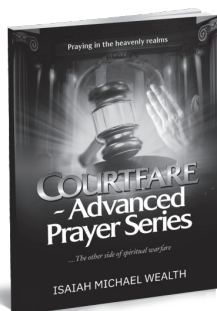
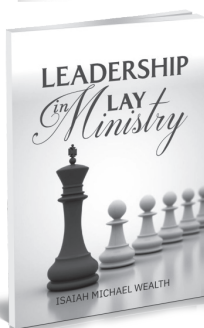
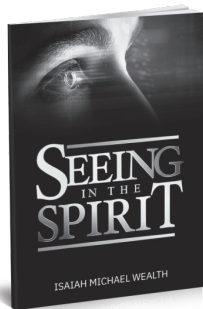
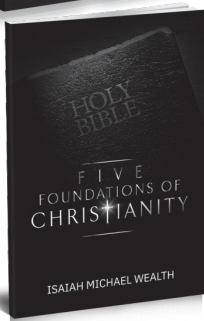
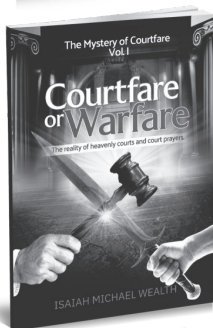
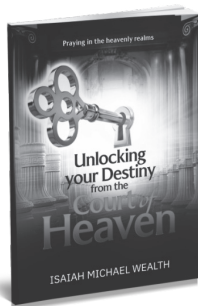
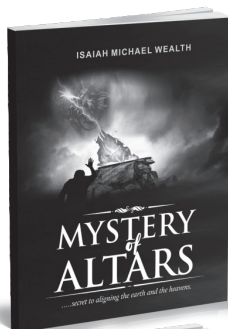
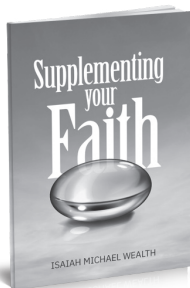












Songs By The Author



The author is also a writer of over a 100 songs. Below are some song titles from several albums projects.

1. Draw Me Nearer
2. Hallelujah
3. Emperor Of The Universe
4. I wanna See You
5. Love You More
6. Give You My Heart
7. Talking About Heaven
8. I Look Upon Your Face
9. Hallelujah To The Lamb
10. I wanna praise you
11. Praise Medley
12. Shalom medley
13. Thank You Medley
14. New Glory
15. Wonderful
16. Talking about heaven

17. Emmanuel
18. Rain in me
19. Jesus my everything
20. A tool
21. Open my eyes
22. Oluwafunmi
23. Sweet Holy Spirit
24. I've got victory
25. I am yours lord
26. I've never found a lover
27. It boils down to you
28. Jesus medley
29. Jesus my everything
30. Greatest one

These and more are available at www.isaiahwealthstore.org

Other Resources by Isaiah Michael Wealth



1. Practicing Responsible Christianity
2. The Mystery of Expelling Demons
3. Training Your Mind For Faith
4. Determining Your Value in Eternity
5. Maintaining Your Zeal for Good Works
6. Dealing with Anger
7. Understanding the Place of Women in the Church
8. Understanding God's Yardstick for Judgment.
9. Developing Responsibility in Marriage
10. Developing Intimacy with Jesus
11. Dealing with Strife from Beneath
12. Obtaining Dominion through Submission
13. Dealing with Strife from Above
14. The Power of Alms Fasting
15. Developing the Consciousness of Angels
16. The Ministry of Angels
17. Living in the Truth
18. The Effect of the New Momentum

19. The Momentum of Truth
20. The Mystery of Rest
21. Supernatural Overtaking
22. Receiving the Word
23. Accessing New Levels of Grace
24. The Language of the Prophetic
25. The Mystery of Yawd
26. The Mystery of Numph
27. The Mystery of Natah
28. Grace to Clear Backlogs
29. Enforcing Your Victory
30. Incubating your Egg
31. Hidden with Christ
32. Press into God's Presence
33. Understanding Spiritual Battle Language 1&2
34. Using Your Spiritual Advantage
35. Acceptable Offering Series
36. Metamorphosis of Marriage
37. Building a Perfect Home
38. Kinds of Home
39. How to make it to Heaven
40. Experiencing Thanksgiving
41. Buying Time
42. Members in Particular
43. Principles of Church Growth
44. Learning to be Content
45. How to Know God's Will
46. Gaining God's Approval

47. Walking with God
48. Connecting to God's System
49. Being in Your Right Mind
50. Enjoying God's Goodness
51. The Voice of the Blessing
52. The Purposes of God
53. The Power of Thanksgiving
54. Changing God's Mind
55. Change your Approach
56. Custodians of Power
57. 7 Things to Do Before You Plant a Seed.
58. 7 Things to Do After You Plant a Seed.
59. Journeying Into Your Wealthy Places
60. Five Levels of Wealth
61. Enjoying the Good Life.
62. My Jesus Account
63. Adjusting to the Mind of Christ
64. Arm your Mind
65. 7 Kingdoms to Reign Over
66. The Essence of My Access
67. Far Above Principalities and Powers
68. Gaining Favour in the Workplace
69. Shortcut to Success
70. The Lifestyle of the Diligent
71. The Missing Element
72. The Missing Ingredient
73. Ruling by Diligence
74. Living Ahead of Time

75. Limit-Free Life
76. Activating the Life of Glory
77. Developing the Anointing Within
78. Yielding to the Spirit.
79. The Easy way to Success.
80. Knowing God's Mind About your Prosperity
81. Servicing the Blessing
82. Financial Increase and Breakthrough Conference Series
83. Giving Life to your Ideas
84. Your Vision for Wealth
85. Breaking the Cycle of Procrastination
86. How to Migrate into Wealth
87. The Three Zones Humans Live in
88. Two Types of Currencies
89. Ten Powers of Greatness
90. Living from Eternity
91. Posing in the Spirit
92. Seven Powers of the Blessing
93. Mind Use Time
94. Determine the Outcome
95. Hardwork Series
96. Manifestations of the Spirit
97. The Mystery of Shacar
98. Why didn't He Answer?
99. Dismantling Unbelief
100. The Integrity of Faith
101. Faith by the Word

102. Giving God First Place
103. Attending Without Distraction
104. Intimacy with God
105. Preparing Your Heart to Receive the Next Miracle
106. The Keys to Meditation
107. Diligence and Breakthrough
108. Hindrances to Breakthrough
109. Sacrificing for Your Breakthrough
110. The Spirit of His Voice Series
111. The Spirit of His Voice
112. Desiring the Voice of God
113. Fellowshiping the Spirit of Counsel
114. The Four Flavours of Grace
115. The Measures of Grace
116. The Sufficiency of Grace
117. The Manifold Dimensions of Grace
118. The Justification of Grace
119. Seven Keys to Accessing & Increasing Grace
120. Maximizing Fellowship with the Father
121. Seven Things The Holy Spirit Brings With Him
122. Why We Prophesy
123. Accessing the Power of the Holy Ghost
124. Bringing The Holy Spirit Upon
125. How to be Anointed with the Spirit
126. The Possibility of Success in Career & Business
127. Five Reasons You Must Not Be Poor
128. Sharing in the Profit of the Earth
129. Developing Your Soul

130. How to Escape Poverty
131. Unlocking Your Destiny
132. How to Deliver Yourself from Poverty
133. How to Eradicate Slothfulness
134. Don't Rest Yet
135. Gathering By Labour
136. Connecting into the Covenant of Wealth
137. Who is My Neighbour?
138. Training Yourself to Solve Problems
139. Matching Your Faith to Your Expectation
140. Scaling the Prayer Barrier
141. Connecting into God's Healing Virtue
142. Dunamis to Heal
143. The Currency for Healing
144. Meeting the God of Compassion
145. The Congregation of gods
146. The Greatest Good A Man Can Do
147. How Healing Happens
148. Accessing True Freedom
149. Overcoming The Works of the Flesh Series
150. How to Be Spiritual
151. Understanding Adultery & Divorce
152. Understanding Fornication
153. Understanding Idolatry
154. Overcoming Covetousness
155. The Power of a Praying Church

About The Author



SINCE THE LORD JESUS FIRST appeared to the man of God and called him to ministry in 2004 whilst still an undergraduate, his love for his Lord has been the driving force behind the heart of this servant of God whose ministry centres on revival of God's power in the church and unity within the Body, a passion which burns daily through the newly established OneSound Revival Fellowship.

Called and recognized as a prophet to the nations, coupled with his great love for people, his heart carries the mandate of Christ, which is a display of the blend of the supernatural and philanthropy as we see written of Jesus in Acts 10:38. His philanthropic activities cuts across race, tribe and religion to deliver top-notch humanitarian services in different continents, especially in Nigeria where his newly established Empowerment Network (TEN) is fighting to eradicate poverty by 50% before 2030.

As a pastor and sought-after financial adviser, he has mentored many beyond his congregation into financial freedom and helps many more in business development and strategy for wealth creation, as he facilitates in the Royalty Money Academy (RMA).

His expository teachings sandwiched with great illustrations and the power of the Holy Ghost has carved him a niche as one of the most outstanding revelator of scriptures of this time.

His passion to reach the lost with the Gospel drives all his initiatives, programs, and efforts which include the recently established International Bible School and Seminary (IBSS) where he serves as Chancellor.

Dr. Wealth has authored nearly 100 books, including Prayer & Witnessing study course series, and Church Growth, Church Finances and Pastoral Ministry. He has also composed and recorded several songs including the famous 'Jesus My Everything', under his record label Mcube. The focus of his message and mission is to equip the individual believer in living and witnessing for the Lord.

He is the Founder and Senior Pastor of the Gospel Pillars International Churches with Headquarters in Lagos Nigeria. He is also the president of the Isaiah Wealth

Ministries, which is active in church planting and charity work in more than three continents of the world. Also, his 24hour TV, Spirit & Bride Network continues to impact many with life-transforming programmes globally and on satellite via free-to-air decoders across Africa.

The prophet also pioneered The Isaiah Wealth Initiative (TIWI) which currently operates fifteen NGOs catering for the needs of women, children, and less privileged in the society. Also, his Devotional Box is the first-of-its-kind multi-version devotional tract that now reaches several thousands of people daily.

He lives in Lagos, Nigeria where he also oversees the Pray Nigeria Movement (PNM), a nonpartisan organization that leverages on his connection with heaven to use prophecy in directing the conscience of the people and leaders towards righteousness, development and national transformation.

His ministerial mentorship and fellowship platform – International Christian Association of Ministers (ICAM) is helping many young ministers today in the way of Christ.

If you have been blessed by this book, you can write Dr. Isaiah Wealth by sending an email to info@isaiahwealthministries.org, or call these numbers:

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United Kingdom: +447774915049

ABOUT THE BOOK



The reason a lot of Christians have not been able to pray through or receive answers is because they do not understand the different kinds of prayers and the rules that govern them. Others have gotten results in prayer by trial and error but cannot categorically explain how they got those results. Hence, they are unable to duplicate it or transfer the knowledge to others.

In this book, Dr. Isaiah Wealth will take you through an in-depth study of the different types of prayers and how to apply them in your everyday life. You will learn about:

- The Prayer of Petition
- The Prayer of Consecration
- The Prayer of Thanksgiving
- The Prayer of Worship
- The Prayer of Faith
- The Prayer of Warfare
- The Prayer of Agreement ... and lots more.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Since the Lord Jesus first appeared to the man of God and called him to ministry in 2004 whilst still an undergraduate, his love for his Lord has been the driving force behind the heart of this servant of God whose ministry is touching lives all around the world.

Called and recognized as a prophet to the nations, coupled with his great love for people, his ministry carries the mandate of Christ, which is a display of the blend of the supernatural and philanthropy as we see written of Jesus in Acts 10:38. His philanthropic activities cuts across race, tribe and religion to deliver top-notch humanitarian services in different continents, especially in Nigeria where his newly established Empowerment Network (TEN) is fighting to eradicate poverty by 50% before 2030.

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