



The Importance of Prayer

Luke 18:1

And He spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint.

Jesus was teaching His disciples the importance of prayer. Prayer strengthens our faith and our behavior to be that of our Father.

To faint means to lose heart when our prayers are not answered immediately. In the times we don't want to pray is the time we should pray, the flesh is warring against the spirit. Jesus told His disciples the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak (***Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak—Matthew 26:41.***

When the flesh is weak it's easy to be influenced by temptation. Temptation is not always sexual, it can be easily angered, fear, doubting. Talking when we should be quiet. Holding on to unforgiveness and offenses.

Prayer builds our faith in God, strengthens our spirit, and enhances our relationship with the Father. Prayer enables the Fruit of the Spirit to be manifested in our lives (love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith and meekness).

Just like in the natural, when a man fathers a child, they should have his DNA, they should look like him or have his characteristics. They will resemble their father in appearance or actions. Spiritually, it's the same when God is our Father. We will produce from Him which is called the Fruit of the Spirit. The Fruit of the Spirit can't be manifested without the Spirit of God indwelling in our being.

Fruit has three distinct characteristics (1) visibility (2) authenticity, and (3) availability. You've never seen nor eaten invisible fruit. You've never gone shopping for invisible fruit.

Fruit, be it an orange, apple or pear is always something you see. Prayer keeps our connection to God and allows His Spirit to be manifested in us that others may see our fruit.

Fruit always bears the character of the tree from which it came. Fruit never exists for itself, fruit is always available for the consumption of others. Fruit exists so that someone else can bite it, be nourished by it, enjoy it, and grow from it.

You will never see an apple or pear struggling and straining to become a apple or pear. This is because the simple act of abiding. Abiding brings about the growth of the fruit. It is our closeness to Jesus that the fruit is created both in and through our lives.

Prayer will change our behavior and character. When Jacob left his parents' home he was a trickster and selfish. But when Jacob had an encounter at Bethel with God, seeing the angels ascending and descending, Jacob recognized that the Lord was in the place he was at.

Jacob makes a vow to give God a tenth of what God gives him. This indicates he was talking with God. That's prayer, it's talking to God. No longer was Jacob a trickster or selfish. His character was changed because he came in contact with God and he yielded himself to the Father.

There is no way you can come in contact with God and stay the same.

Our prayer will bless others, Rebekah was bare, she couldn't have children. Isaac, her husband prayed for her (***And Isaac entreated the Lord for his wife, because she was barren, and the Lord was entreated of him. And Rebekah his wife conceived—Genesis 25:21.*** Prayer will not only bless us, but it will bless others.

Prayer builds our relationship with the Father, and He will know us by name. (***And the Lord said unto Moses, I will do this thing also that thou has spoken: for thou hast found grace in my sight, and I know thee by name—Exodus 33:17.*** Prayer enables us to know the Father and the Father to know us by name. If you want anyone to know your name, you should want God to know it.

Prayer does not have to be long nor does it has to be in a certain posture or place. We can pray in our cars, while shopping, while we're working because prayer can also be prayed in silence. No one hears you, but God. We have the privilege to pray anytime and anywhere.

Prayer will give you courage. Gideon was called by God to fight and deliver Israel from their depression of the Midianites. God instructed Gideon to destroy the image his father worshipped (***Then Gideon took ten men of his servants and did as the Lord had said unto him: and so it was because he feared his Father's household, and the men of the city, that he could not do it by day, that he did it by night—Judges 6:27.*** The image Gideon's father was worshipping was a wooden image of a Canaanite goddess called Asherah.

Although he was fearful, he still had courage enough to carryout the orders the Lord had given him. All God wants is a willing vessel.

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Prayer cleanses our spirit and makes us aware of sin in our lives. David went before God acknowledging the sin he had committed by sleeping with Bathsheba and having her husband Uriah murdered.

He didn't go to God making excuses for his sin, he didn't blame others because of his sins. He came to God confessing his sin. When we acknowledge and confess our sins, God will cleanse and forgive us (***If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness 1st John 1:9.***)

We have to stay connected to God by prayer, if not, the flesh will become weak and it will be in control. Whatever we feed the most to our spirit or our flesh that's what will be in control. So we must pray so that we will not walk in the flesh, but in the Spirit so that we will not fulfill the desires of the flesh.

Sin has no age limit, it does not discriminate. Sin will influence the old as it will the young. King Solomon lost his connection with God because he began to worship the gods his wives' were worshipping (***And it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the Lord his God as was the heart of David his father—1st Kings 11:4.***) If Solomon would have been prayerful, first of all, he wouldn't have had the wives and concubines he possessed. They were his downfall and made him lose his connection with God.

Our strength is prayer and our connection with God. Prayer enables us to hear and be sensitive to the Spirit of God. Sin will not have a grip or dominate when we stay before the Father in prayer and follow His instructions. Sin is around us daily, but prayer will assist us to abstain from the influence.

Jesus informed His disciples not only to pray, but to watch as well (***Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation, the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak—Matthew 26:41.***) Just as God uses people, so does Satan. He will send someone to you after you have prayed, and if you're not watchful you will say or do an action that will cancel out the prayer you just prayed.

Prayer builds our faith muscles. In the natural, exercise is useful for building and strengthening muscles. Test and trials come our way to build our faith. We also build our faith by praying in the Holy Spirit (***But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost—Jude 1:20-21.***) If you have not been baptized in the Holy Spirit, you will not be able to pray in the Spirit, this is done only by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

Praying in the Holy Spirit will enable us to pray exactly for what the Father would have us to pray for (***Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities, for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit maketh intercession for us with groaning which cannot be uttered—Romans 8:26.***) This is why one should be baptized in the Holy Spirit, so that we can pray exactly for what needs to be prayed for. Speaking in tongues is the evidence one has been filled with the Holy Spirit.

Apostle Paul wrote to the body of Christ to put on the whole armor of God to fight against Satan and his cohort (***Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil—Ephesians 6:10-11.***)

The armor of God consist of six pieces. (1) Truth—Is a knowledge of the truth of God's Word. (2) Breastplate of Righteousness. It represents a holy

character a moral conduct. (3) Preparation of the Gospel of Peace—The gospel of peace to the believer freeing him or her from anxiety. It means eagerness that comes from the gospel of peace. Roman soldiers wore special shoes called "Caligae" on their feet to enable them to advance against their enemy. So the Christian must have on his feet a sense of eagerness or willingness to advance against Satan and take the fight to him.

- (4) Shield of Faith—means taking God at His Word by believing His promises. Such trust will protect one from doubt induced by Satan.
- (5) Helmet of Salvation—Having the certainty or assurance of salvation. Knowing we have been free from the bondage of Satan. Knowing he has no power over us (***Now the Lord is that Spirit and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty—2nd Corinthians 3:17.***) Freedom from anything Satan tries to do against the Christian.
- (6) The Sword of the Spirit—The Word of God, we have to fight Satan with the Word of God, he will not come subject to nothing else.

This is why it is so important to pray and be baptized in the Holy Spirit. Christians are fighting an invisible enemy, one we can't see with our natural eyes. He influences with our eyes, feelings and desires. All these must be submitted to God in order to have power over demonic influences.

The Bible gives us an example of some vagabond Jews who tried to cast out a demon. When they tried to cast out the demon, the demon spoke back and said, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know, but who are you?" If one is not submitted to God,

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demons will not come submissive. We can't just profess to be Christians, we must live as Christians daily. Demonic spirits are aware of who we are in Christ. They must come subject to the Spirit of God that lives in us.

This authority comes with being a child of God with a connection to Him through prayer, fasting, reading and studying the Word of God as well as applying what we read to our daily lives.

Once the armor is on, we must have a consistent prayer life (***Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints—Ephesians 6:18***). All prayers consist of Prayer of agreement (***Again I say unto you, that if two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything they ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven—Matthew 18:19***). This is why Satan tries to keep Christians from coming together in unity, because he knows if two of them begin to pray, it will be powerful and the Father will hear and answer their prayers.

Having a prayer partner is good. Daniel and his companions prayed about a dream King Nebuchadnezzar had and wanted the dream to be interpreted, but couldn't remember the dream. None of the Chaldeans, magicians or astrologers could interpret the dream. Since they couldn't interpret the dream, the king made a decree to kill all the wise men of Babylon including Daniel and his companions.

Daniel requested that he be given time to pray and he would be able to give the King the interpretation of the dream. So Daniel and his companions prayed and God showed them the dream and gave them the interpretation of the dream. It's good to have someone to agree with you in prayer. God hears the prayers of those that

submit themselves to Him. The prayers of the non-believer as well as the carnal-minded Christian is not acceptable to God (***The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord: but the prayer of the upright is His delight—Proverbs 15:8***). So when you have someone praying with you, make sure he or she is living a Christian lifestyle, not just professing it, but living according to God's holy Word.

There is also the prayer of thanksgiving, thanking God for His goodness, and mercy. This is a time when you're not asking Him for anything. You're just thanking Him for Who He is; thanking Him for what He has done for you and others.

Prayer of Intercession is when you're praying for someone else and will continue to pray until you receive an answer from God on the behalf of the person, or see an manifestation of an answered prayer for them.

Travailing and Groaning Prayers, these prayers are deep agonizing birthing prayers; our spirit is communicating with the Spirit of God. This is prayer with tears and groaning that can't be understood in the natural. This can only happen through being baptized in the Holy Spirit.

Supplication Prayers are when we continue to seek God for what we're asking Him for. Some denominations teach if you pray more than once for something, you don't have faith. This is not Scriptural. In several occasions, the Bible teaches the believer to pray until the prayer is answered.

Shouting and yelling prayers is when the Holy Spirit prompts the individual to shout in prayer. When this happens God is about to do an unprecedented thing in our lives or the lives of others.

Metaphoric Prayers is with body gestures and movement; the individual is hitting things in the spirit.

The body language is aggressive and our voices are authoritative. Confronting demonic spirits with authority.

Prayer of Dedication is when one admits that he or she is not living according to God's Word and they will rededicate themselves to the Lord to submit themselves completely to Him.

Praying in the Spirit is praying exactly for what God wants, the individual is speaking directly to God (***For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries—1st Corinthians 14:2***).

Meditation prayers is sitting silence before God, waiting to hear what He has to say. Many times He will not say anything, but He's dealing with your spirit. As long as you come before God, you will always continue to change in your spirit. The more you come before Him, the more you will be changing into the image of His Son.

Prayer is our communication with God. We can go to Him anytime of the night or day. We don't have to be in a certain posture or certain place to pray. As long as the prayer is sincere, He will hear.

Prayer will build your relationship with God and help one to talk to Him about every day life. When your prayer life is built, you will talk to God throughout the day with prayer and praise or just having a conversation with Him about what concerns you or irritate you.

God wants us to communicate with Him and He also wants to communicate with us. He can only do that if we give Him quality time. We give quality time for everything else, let's give God quality time.



WORD OF LIFE MINISTRIES OF ALL NATIONS

Monthly Newsletter



If you have not received Jesus as your Lord and Savior, all you have to do is ask God to forgive you of your sins. Let Him know that you are aware that you have not submitted yourself to the Lord or His doctrine. Ask God to forgive you of your sins. Ask Him to save you, tell Him you accept His salvation by His Son.

If you believe that Jesus is the Son of God, if you believe that Jesus died for your sins. If you believe that He was risen from the grave. Then you are saved.

Confess with your mouth that you're saved.

Romans 10:9-11

That if thou shall confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

For the Scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on Him shall not be ashamed.

If you have truly accepted salvation, your heart and spirit has been changed. You will feel the cleanliness within your spirit and heart. Now it's your responsibility to read the Word of God, pray, fast and submit yourself to the Word of God. If you can attend worship service at church or at your facility, you should attend to be strengthen spiritually. As you submit yourself to the doctrine of the Bible you will see a change in your character and attributes.

You can't receive salvation and stay the same. That was the reason Jesus died so that you would be free from the bondage of sin. You can't change yourself, He will change you, if you allow Him.

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