



# THE POWER OF PRAYER

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## THE POWER OF PRAYER

What can prayer do? What exactly can prayer achieve for you? Most of the time we want to replace prayer with knowledge. Today we want to ask ourselves what can prayer do?

Many of us don't know why people in the scriptures used to pray.

John Wesley said *"It seems that God will not do anything except men pray."*

**Luke 18:1** *And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;*

If there's a failure, it's not a power failure neither is it a faith failure but a prayer failure. Many times we have resorted to human wisdom and craftiness, even in ministry. You can resort to preaching a lot of common sense and in the end people stop depending on prayer.

What exactly can prayer achieve? Why would a man like Elijah, and Moses tarry in prayer for forty days? What were they intending to achieve? We read of Jesus, many times, praying all night. What was the point? What was he attempting to achieve? What exactly is the power of prayer?

When am praying, what can I achieve? Take note that learning to pray is not equal to praying itself. Having enough material and teachings on prayer will not take the place of prayer. Until you pray, you have not prayed.

What can prayer do? Why would the queen of Scotland fear the prayers of John Knox more than the whole army of England? Why? What did the great men of prayer seem to discover that we seem not to know in this generation? Why did they place such emphasis on prayer?

Were they just wasting time... busy bodies with nothing to do? What is the point? What are we missing in our generation?

Jesus has already told us to pray without ceasing in Luke 18. Paul, similarly emphasises the same:

**1Thessalonians 5:17** *Pray without ceasing.*

**Ephesians 6: 18** *Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;*

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

Prayer is a constant, not a variable. Scripture is replete with commendations, exaltations and commandments to pray. What have we not discovered about prayer? Let's examine James 5:16

**James 5:16** *Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.*

Heartfelt prayer....a deep intense prayer. If a man's emotions are not reflected in his praying, he's joking!

The Amplified version explains it better, *the earnest, continued, heartfelt prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available, dynamic in its working.*

Prayer, therefore, is a tool to make things happen. Power introduced in prayer is the ability to do something, to accomplish a task.

What exactly can be done with this power?

There can be a tendency to say you have power within and therefore not pray.

**Eph 1:19** *And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,*

**Acts 1:8** *But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*

I have come to tell you truly, a prayerless Christian is a powerless Christian.

Take that to the bank.

A prayerless church, is a powerless church. Prayer is the voice of the church to make things happen on the earth. So prayer makes power available. Whenever there's no prayer, human effort is the option, which is bound to fail.

**Zechariah 4:6** *Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.*

When a man is not praying, he is simply relying on his strength, on his words and on his intelligence, and he is bound to fail. The ways of God are not the ways of man. There's no genuine move of God, or revival not preceded by intense prayer.

What can prayer, therefore achieve?

Very clearly, prayer makes power available to do things.

We can have the desire:

- To reach nations
- To help believers grow spiritually
- To bring many to the kingdom

But that desire is fruitless without prayer. That desire needs power to come to pass.

It is not enough to have the desire to do the right thing, there's need for power to see that desire come to pass.

Many of us set out to do the right things and our desires are there:

- To disciple others
- To see a change in your family
- To teach the word of God

However, all this will come to nothing until we put power behind the desire.

**Mark 11:24** *Therefore I say unto you, what things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.*

What happens in prayer? Tremendous power is made available to accomplish the desire.

**1Jn 5:14-15** *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.*

**John 15:7** *If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.*

**Joh 16:23** *And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you.*

No asking, no receiving, no asking, no power, no prayer, no power.

Ohh there's a need in my family, I have this and that challenge...

Have you prayed about it?

We have resorted to reading self-help books and looking for quick fix solutions, but the only solution given in scripture is called PRAYER.

Prayer power is effective power. Men ought to always make tremendous power available and not faint. Listen well: There's no problem prayer cannot solve!

**Philippians 4:6** *Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.*

No prayer, no power. Every desire demands an ability to perform it. That ability is released through prayer.

As sad as it appears, some traditional churches that we have looked down because of doctrine, get more things accomplished because they pray.

There's power in prayer! There's power through prayer. Prayer brings your desires to pass. No desire, no need to pray. When there's a desire, there's a need to pray.

How many people desire for a change in our nation?

How many desire for more ministers in the kingdom? For the growth in our church?

That desire is fruitless unless you pray. It's good to inspire men by preaching, but Jesus said "Pray ye the Lord of the harvest that he might bring forth labourers"

The answer is in praying.

Nothing defies the power of prayer. Nothing. No wonder the disciples said we will not be distracted....

**Act 6:4** *But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.*

This shows us the secret of the Acts of the Apostles. What they did regularly must be the reason for the result that they achieved regularly. The apostles gave themselves to prayer regularly. That's what they could not substitute for anything else.

What can my prayer life do? If I travail in prayer, what can it achieve in my ministry?

## What can prayer do?

1. **Prayer changes the lives of men. Colossians 4:12** *Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.*

Prayer changes people's lives.

**Ephesians 1:16** *Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers; vs17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: vs18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,*

Prayer can change a man's life. Prayer transforms the life of those we are going to reach.

Our words cannot change lives, it takes power, and that power is made available when we pray.

Jesus turned to Simon Peter...."Satan has sought to sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you."

2. **Prayer changes situations /circumstances.**

**Act 4:31-33** *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.*

**2Thessalonians 3:1** *Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you: vs2 And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all men have not faith.*

Without prayer, the message will be hindered. Ministry doesn't come easy, you must pay the price in prayer. There are no hard grounds, we only need strong men who can pray.

Many times we have ministers in the mission field but because we don't support them in prayer, they go weak and fall out of the work.

3. **Prayer makes ministry effective.**

**Colossians 4:3** *withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds: vs4 that I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak.*

These are things that the men of old discovered about ministry.

4. **Prayer reaches people you cannot reach.**

It will take men that will hold onto prayer to see revivals and restoration of nations to God. We take up everything in prayer.