

## Prayer Part 1

Prayer is the real need for us today in our lives. Life is difficult and we really need God to be in our mid and handle all our hardships and trials and to solve our problems.

**“35 And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed.” (Mark 1:35 KJV)** Jesus and from His life we learn much about the life of prayers. Jesus in the Scripture that we read had woke up early and went to a solitary place to pray. Before he started His day He prayed for the day to be blessed. **The same for us we need to start our day with prayer and reading the Word of God so that we will be directed with His Word, and as we pray before we start then His presence will be with us the whole day. Therefore keep time every day for prayer before you got involved in any work or activity. Make that a habit and a practice for you and for your family to follow daily, so God shall bless you abundantly, give you the strength and bring into your presence a fruitful day.**

The Word of God tells to **“17 Pray without ceasing.” (1 Thessalonians 5:17 KJV)** God should be the center of our lives to help us and support us. Therefore it is awesome to pray continually and to **“2 Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;”** as we read in **Colossians 4:2.**

**“13 Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms.” (James 5:13 KJV)** There are two options we have according to this Word of God. **\* If the Lord had blessed you and answered your prayer then praise Him and sing to Him. But if you are in trouble then pray and continue to pray and ask God to help you and support you. \* So God should be the center of our lives and wellbeing, and we need to be in constant prayer and in communication with Him.**

In **Mark 14:38** Jesus said, **“38 Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak.”** \* Prayer is very important as a way to overcome the weaknesses of the flesh and the temptations of the world. When we pray we are united and have fellowship with God. \* But if we are away from prayer we will be tempted to watch TV, YOU tube, Facebook, to gossip, to go to wrong places, or along wrong people and we may fall in temptations and sins. \* So prayer is a good habit that we may spend our extra time.

**“12 And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God. 13 And when it was day, he called unto him his disciples: and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles;” (Luke 6:12-13 KJV)** Jesus before He chose His apostles, He spent the whole night in prayer. **So we learn here that before we take a major decision and before we make great choices we need to spend a good time in prayer. If Jesus who prayed the whole night before He chose His apostles and one of them betrayed Him, then how much we ourselves need to pray before make any important decision!**

Let us read the following Scripture from the Bible that speaks about life of prayer: **“36 And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of**

**Aser: she was of a great age, and had lived with an husband seven years from her virginity; 37 And she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. 38 And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem.” (Luke 2:36-38 KJV)** That woman Anna had lived with her husband only seven years and then he left her as a widow and she continued to live her life for God. She was bound with the temple praying and fasting to God and worshipping Him. God became her husband and the temple her family and she lived there.

That woman had left the world and its temptations and she committed her life fully to follow God wholeheartedly. It mentions here that she never left the temple but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. **What a wonderful style of life in a constant and continuous fellowship with God and serving him through prayers and fastings.**

At that time the temple was the worship center, and people part of their worship was to offer to God burnt offerings and other offerings that mandate bringing animals like goat, sheep, ox, birds, and offer them to God. In addition to that they may offer grain, flour, oil, frankincense, wine, etc. So Anna was in the mid of tremendous flow of food and in every day but she was not tempted with the delicious food. She delighted to pray and to fast unto God. She was enjoying the Holy Spirit of God more than the delicious and fresh food that was brought to the temple. Therefore the Lord rewarded her and blessed her with the following:

**1. Contentment:** She had full satisfaction with God. The Lord occupied the place of her husband and her family. She was living without worry or fear, for the Lord was her confidence. It is mentioned about her that she, **“departed not from the temple.”** She never left God’s presence, for she was in continuous and constant communion with Him, therefore she was in peace and in rest, for God was carrying all her burdens. **The same to you, your life of prayers, dedication and commitment to God will bring peace, joy and satisfaction in your life and God shall carry your burdens.**

**2. The Gift of Prophecy:** Prayer and fasting, and life of humility before God had filled that woman with the wisdom of God and the Lord made of her a prophet who tells and declares the will of God to the people and what is to come. She was known and called as Anna the prophetess, **“And there was one Anna, a prophetess”.** **Your humility, prayers, fastings, and serving God will fill you with the Holy Spirit. As you pray and fast the Lord will give you His Word to sustain your life with, and to declare them to the people around you who need them in their lives.**

**3. Meeting Christ face to face:** Anna had lived in holiness and in obedience to God’s Word. Her full hope was on God, His Word and she lived in His ways. Therefore ultimately she met Christ, the living Word, face to face. **The same for us now as we live in holiness, obeying God’s Word and hoping and waiting for Him to come to take us to Heaven, then as we seek Him with all our hearts then we will meet Him face to face and we will hear from Him when He will come to take us what is written in Matthew 25:21, “Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.”**

**4. The gift of evangelism:** “38 And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem.” (Luke 2:36-38 KJV) Anna the prophetess after she met Christ, gave thanks to God seeing the salvation of God, and was directed by the Holy Spirit to declare the promise of God and His salvation to those who were ready and waiting for the coming of Christ. **The same for you today as you persevere in prayer and fasting God shall fill you with the Holy Spirit and lead you to preach His message and tell about Christ to all who are ready to accept His Word and receive Him as Savior and Lord over their lives.**

Today, prayer is our real need to be able to deal with life’s events and trials. The Bible teach us more about prayer, and that for our good and wellbeing to be in continuous fellowship and in communion with God who is the only person who is able to help us in our lives.

Apostle Paul from what he wrote to the Ephesians church we can learn more about prayers: “15 Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, 16 Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers; 17 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: 18 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, 19 And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,” (Ephesians 1:15-19 KJV) This pattern of Biblical prayers it teaches us to give thanks to God for the saints of God, the brethren, who are living their lives to God. We need to give thanks to God for all the workers that God had placed to work with us in serving Him; “16 Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers;” we need to pray for the workers to have more wisdom how to manage their lives, time and resources to serve God more effectively: “17 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.” We need to keep praying for them to have the spirit of revelation that God would reveal to them through His Word, His perfect will and plan, that they can see God in a better way, and God through miracles and wonders, dreams and visions shall reveal to them His power so that their faith in Him shall increase and through that faith and hope on God they can live better with less worries and they can be more effective and fruitful in their ministries unto God.

We need to pray to God for the new believers to be filled with the Holy Spirit. In the book of Acts chapter 8 when the apostles heard that Samaria had accepted the Word of God they sent Peter and John, “14 Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: 15 Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost:” (Acts 8:14-15 KJV) And that exactly what we need to do to the new believers and our coworkers, that we need to pray for them to be filled with The Holy Spirit and to receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit that will enable them to do God’s service effectively.

Many good things we can receive through prayer. And one of the great things we receive through prayer is the Holy Spirit. The Lord Jesus Christ reminded us to pray for that particular thing; to pray to receive the Holy Spirit, “13 If ye then, being evil, know how to

give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?” (Luke 11:13 KJV) Paul and the elders with him practiced that. They prayed and they laid their hands on Timothy and he received the gift of the Holy Spirit. Paul also reminded Timothy of that, “14 Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.” (1 Timothy 4:14 KJV) “6 Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands.” (2 Timothy 1:6 KJV)

Paul in his letter to the Ephesians spoke to them about prayer, “18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;” (Ephesians 6:18 KJV) Paul was instructing them to continue to pray for everyone and for all the saints because prayer is an important piece in the armor of God. Every believer needs prayer because prayer is for the protection of the back of the warrior. So when we pray for one another we are protecting one another.

Paul also requested them to pray for him, “19 And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, 20 For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.” (Ephesians 6:19-20 KJV) He requested prayer so that when he will open his mouth he will be given words from God to proclaim the message fearlessly and clearly as God wanted him to do it. We need to pray for one another so that God’s message would be preached in an effective way. Our co-workers in the ministry are the workers of the Lord Jesus, and they are warrior with us to fight the good fight while we are here on earth, and we do that by preaching the gospel to the people who are around us and teaching His Word to those who believe in Him, while others are praying for us.

Paul expressed to the Church of God in Corinth how their prayers had helped him much and promoted the affairs of God as we can read here: “8 For we would not, brethren, have you ignorant of our trouble which came to us in Asia, that we were pressed out of measure, above strength, insomuch that we despaired even of life: 9 But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead: 10 Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us; 11 Ye also helping together by prayer for us, that for the gift bestowed upon us by the means of many persons thanks may be given by many on our behalf.” (2 Corinthians 1:8-11 KJV)

As Paul was traveling long distances and doing the task of the Lord that devil opposed and tried to hinder he was experiencing great pressure in the province of Asia. Persecution, opposition to the message, hardship in traveling, accidents, bad weather and sicknesses all can be the works of the devil to oppose the works of God. Paul was so pressed that he almost died, “insomuch that we despaired even of life: 9 But we had the sentence of death in ourselves;” that had happened to Paul and God allowed it so that Paul and all who were with him, and those who want to walk in the ways that Paul walked to follow Christ, would know that they need to rely on God and trust Him, and not on themselves, as Paul said about God, “Who delivered us from so great a death”.

But Paul made it clear to the church that he was well helped through prayer, “11 Ye also helping together by prayer for us,” the prayer of the church had helped Paul and the

mission's work of God to continue forward and get accomplished and achieved the goal. And as God had delivered them and helped them in such miraculous way then many they will praise the Lord for that, **"11 Ye also helping together by prayer for us, that for the gift bestowed upon us by the means of many persons thanks may be given by many on our behalf."**

**My Dear and Beloved:** Commit yourself fully unto God. There is much temptations and more worldliness around you, but be sensible and quit all that perishable things, **"7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded. 9 Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. 10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up."** (James 4:7-10 KJV) **The time is for you now to quit all such and to commit yourself to God, and to start to serve Him, "1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."** (Romans 12:1-2 KJV) **It is a time for you now to commit yourself to have a prayerful life, to communicate with God and to apply all what we learned in this message about prayer.**

Let us pray . . . .

**My Prayer:** Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the dead on the third day to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your Word that teaches me your ways and showed me clearly the purposes of prayer and the power and the blessing that I would receive in living a life of prayer. Lord I love to obey your Word and live it. Lord thank you for all the material and the spiritual blessings that you had bestowed in my life. Lord thank you for all the teaching, the rebukes, the corrections and the admonishments that we received in this message.

Now repent and renounce all your sins. Repent of your lack of faith and your lack of full trust on God and on His Word and the power of prayer. Repent and renounce your worries, doubts and fears. Repent of your lack of fear of God, and living and doing your own ways, will and plans. Repent of your worldliness, your love for material things, and your yoke with non believers and many friends. Repent of your lust, immoralities, and the rest of the works of the flesh. Repent of your selfishness, doing your own will, lack of commitment and non willingness to give to God your time, your effort and your material things. Repent of being bad example to others. Repent from your non willingness to persevere while persecuted and suffer for Christ. Repent of your non willingness to reach the lost souls to bring them to Christ. Repent from wasting your time and spoiling your mind with the Media, News and games. Repent of your lack of reading God's Word in the Bible and studying the Scripture, and your lack of living a life of prayer. Lord I repent from the following sins \_\_\_\_\_.

Lord I commit myself to live in holiness and to continue to trust you and live a life of prayer relying on you in my daily needs that you will be the one to sustain me and deliver me from all troubles. Lord I commit myself to take the style of Anna in prayer and fasting.

*Lord, use me for your glory to do your will and your plan and to tell others about you and to declare to them your perfect pleasing and good will. Lord I commit myself to pray for others and intercede on their behalf. Lord fill me with the Holy Spirit to continue to go on and serve you. Lord do miracles in my life and help me to overcome this struggle \_\_\_\_\_ Lord uphold me with your grace, and help me to live in such a way to please you, this is my prayer in Jesus name Amen.*

*Lord thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who repented of their sins and committed themselves to work out with you to keep all the principles that we learned in this message about prayer. Lord protect them and provide for them so they will continue to live for you, serving you. Lord make them fruitful, soul winners and good example to others to follow you. Lord protects them, provides for them all their needs, and fill them with your Holy Spirit so they will continue to serve you.*

*Lord we pray for us as a church that we will continue to serve you, to be a church of prayer and fasting, committing ourselves to apply all what we learned about prayers in our lives, in the lives of our families and in our ministries. Lord raise more prayer warriors among us. Lord we commit ourselves to walk before you in humility, and in holiness in accordance to your will and plan for us. Lord refill us once again with the Holy Spirit, and lead us and enable us to reach new people, making new disciples and training new workers, and to plant new Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord I pray for more people to be water baptized, and receives the Holy Spirit baptism. Lord bless and increase all our ministries, and prepare us for your coming that we will go with you when you come to take us. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.*

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