

Prayer Part 3

“1 Now it came to pass when Sanballat, and Tobiah, and Geshem the Arabian, and the rest of our enemies, heard that I had builded the wall, and that there was no breach left therein; (though at that time I had not set up the doors upon the gates;) 2 That Sanballat and Geshem sent unto me, saying, Come, let us meet together in some one of the villages in the plain of Ono. But they thought to do me mischief. 3 And I sent messengers unto them, saying, I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down: why should the work cease, whilst I leave it, and come down to you? 4 Yet they sent unto me four times after this sort; and I answered them after the same manner. 5 Then sent Sanballat his servant unto me in like manner the fifth time with an open letter in his hand; 6 Wherein was written, It is reported among the heathen, and Gashmu saith it, that thou and the Jews think to rebel: for which cause thou buildest the wall, that thou mayest be their king, according to these words. 7 And thou hast also appointed prophets to preach of thee at Jerusalem, saying, There is a king in Judah: and now shall it be reported to the king according to these words. Come now therefore, and let us take counsel together. 8 Then I sent unto him, saying, There are no such things done as thou sayest, but thou feignest them out of thine own heart. 9 For they all made us afraid, saying, Their hands shall be weakened from the work, that it be not done. Now therefore, O God, strengthen my hands.” (Nehemiah 6:1-9 KJV)

Nehemiah was engaged to do the great work of God in rebuilding the wall around Jerusalem to protect the people of God and separate them from the evil doers who were trying to invade their lives and destroy them. When their enemies heard what Nehemiah was doing they were trying to stop him by making a slur against him and intimidate him with threats and accusations. That was a cause of discouragement in his life and in the lives of the people of God in Jerusalem. And because of this discouragement they got a weak feeling as if they were physically tired. And that was indeed the purpose of their enemies to weaken their hands so the work that supposed to be done by them would be stopped. But Nehemiah overcame that through prayer to the Lord as he prayed, *“Now therefore, O God, strengthen my hands.”* And God answered his prayer and Nehemiah was strengthened and was able to finish the work of God and the task that was entrusted to Him.

Sometime when you respond to God’s call and is willing to make a wall to separate yourself from the world and its practices the devil will not be happy to find you doing that. So he may use people around you to threaten you and try to intimidate you and accuse you in order to stop you. Even bad news from friends, TV or from the net, the devil may use to penetrate your life to discourage you and gives you pain and anxiety in order to stop you.

So be careful then of the schemes of the devil who is trying to penetrate your life, destabilize you, discourage you and try to stop you to do God’s will. Avoid the above resources; friends, the Media, and news that the devil may use to enter your life. Be clear minded with God and pray to the Lord to strengthen you so that you will be able to complete the task entrusted to you.

Let us move now to other examples of prayers: *“35 And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. 36 But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. 37 Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; 38 Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.” (Matthew 9:35-38 KJV)*

Jesus with His compassionate heart as He was moving around through the towns and villages, and teaching in their places of worship the Word of God, and preaching to them the good news of the Kingdom, and healing those who are sick from their diseases, He was seeing and noticing the crowds who did not know God. Therefore, Jesus had compassion on them because they were harassed due to the effects of sin and the destructive work of the devil in their lives. The people were helpless because they were not receiving their needs. They didn’t know where to go because no one was telling them the direction and how to get into the right way.

They were, *“as sheep having no shepherd”*. The sheep needs from their shepherd the direction where to go, the right pasture and the correct food to eat. The people whom Jesus saw they needed someone to teach them and to direct them with God’s Word. Jesus was seeing them, teaching some of them but the rest whom Jesus was not teaching they still needed workers to be sent by God to reach them with God’s Word. That is why the Lord declared, *“The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few”*. Much people were around Jesus and beyond His capacity to reach them. At that time Jesus although He is God, He was also a man with certain capacity and He needed others to help Him to reach the lost. Jesus was expressing the needs for workers to do God’s work in reaching the crowd and teaching them the Word of God and the way to live.

There was a need for people to be raised by the Lord to do that. That was why the Lord said, *“38 Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.”* This what Jesus prayed and what He suggested to us to pray, is still valid to this day. Jesus prayed that prayer and the Lord answered Him and that was what we read just after that, *“1 And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.” (Matthew 10:1 KJV)* His prayer was answered by God and He was mobilized to call His disciples and gave them authority to do the works of God as He was doing in front of them.

The prayer of Jesus is still working and God is answering that by continuously sending workers to the harvest field. And the prayer of Jesus is the prayer that the church is praying till this day, and we will continue to pray this prayer of Jesus, *“that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.”* till the Lord will come and take us to Heaven.

And as we pray this prayer God will send out workers from among us to the harvest field and God will use His church to reach new people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The Lord will raise up more workers from our disciples and He will fill them with the Holy Spirit and will equip them with the Spiritual gifts to do the works of God and reach the lost in accordance to the great commission of the Lord, *“19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing*

them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” (Matthew 28:19-20 KJV)

Of the apostles that Jesus had called and sent to serve Him, and to reach the lost and to make disciples, was Apostle Paul who served God wholeheartedly and made disciples and now we will study another example of prayer from the letter of Paul to the church in Thessalonica: *“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: 2 And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all men have not faith. 3 But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil. 4 And we have confidence in the Lord touching you, that ye both do and will do the things which we command you. 5 And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ.” (2 Thessalonians 3:1-5 KJV)* Paul in his letter to them encouraged them to pray for him and for the works of God to be prospered. He asked them to pray, for prayer can do to us all the following:

1. The rapid spread of God’s message: Prayer can activate and initiate a rapid evangelism. God through the prayer of the church will open new doors for the church to evangelize and to reach new people, and new areas, nations and languages with the gospel of Jesus.

2. That the message of the Lord shall be honoured and the Word of God be glorified: Prayer not only open new doors for evangelism but as well as will lead us to people who honor, respect, glorify, and fear the Word of God and the message that the Lord is sending to them.

3. Protection and deliverance: *“2 And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all men have not faith.” (2 Thessalonians 3:2 KJV)* Prayer is a very powerful tool to protect and shield those who serve God and deliver them from all the evil schemes of the devil that might use certain evil people to hinder the works of God.

4. Stability: *“3 But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil.” (2 Thessalonians 3:3 KJV)* Prayer will give stability, confidence and strength. And stability, confidence and strength are a very important factor in God’s service. Many times the attack of the devil is manifested in our lives as doubts, being shaken, and weaknesses to achieve God’s will and works. Many times the devil will try to attack us and persecute us by sending to us bad news, threats and intimidations to make us afraid, shake us and finally to stop us from doing God’s work. The threat of Satan will make us feel weak or sickly and that might be a reason to hinder or stops the works of God. Prayer is important for every worker who is engaged in God’s service because prayer increases our faith and that will help us to combat fear, and when fear is gone then discouragement is no more, then we found ourselves have the strength and the courage to continue to do God’s work and will.

5. Continuity in obeying the instructions: *“4 And we have confidence in the Lord touching you, that ye both do and will do the things which we command you.” (2 Thessalonians 3:4 KJV)* Paul was praying for the church and that was why he got the

confidence that the church was doing well and everyone not only was doing well but they will continue to do the instructions they received from God through Paul. **As we continue to pray for the members and the workers of the church, then the Lord shall strengthen them and they will continue to do the works of God and we shall have the confidence and the assurance that they are doing such.**

6. Perseverance: *“5 And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ.” (2 Thessalonians 3:5 KJV)* * Prayer has great help for the work of God to continue. Our prayers prompt our coworkers to be filled with Christ’s love to persevere in times of trials and hardship to continue in doing God’s work. * It is easy to serve God when everything is available and there is no problem. But when there are trials and troubles God’s service will be more difficult to achieve and here is the need for prayer.

Paul also prayed for the church in Colossi: *“9 For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; 10 That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11 Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness; 12 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:” (Colossians 1:9-12 KJV)* The church in Colossi was under the care of Epaphras who came and reported to Paul the incorrect teaching and ways of life that some of the church members were adopting, asking help from Paul to advice him what to do. Paul gave the advice to Epaphras and he sent to the church a teaching letter and commended to them the hard work of their leader. But Paul prayed for the church when he heard what was going on in their lives. In Paul’s prayer we can notice and observe the following points:

1. They never stop praying for them, *“9 For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you”:* Prayer should continue until there will be fruit and evidence of correction in the peoples’ lives.

2. They prayed and asked God to fill them with the knowledge of God’s will, *“and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding”:* Many they continue to do wrong because they are unaware of God’s will in their lives. Those who do their own we need to pray for them that God will make His ways and His will clear to them. *“9 For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;” (Colossians 1:9 KJV)* We need to pray for those who are doing their own, that God shall fill those people with His spiritual wisdom and understanding. Because such kind of people they have their own earthly, fleshly and devilish wisdom but not the wisdom of God.

3. They prayed for them that they will live a life worthy of the Lord’s calling: *“10 That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;” (Colossians 1:10 KJV)* Paul informed the church that they were praying for them in this way and in such direction that all of them will live their lives pleasant to the Lord. *Ephesians 5:10* says *“10 Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.”* The people need our prayer before they will find out what pleases the Lord. For them

to live a life that is worthy of God's calling they need our prayers, and through our prayers to them they can achieve the following things:

A. Bearing fruit in every good work, "being fruitful in every good work": Prayer help the people to get involve in serving the Lord and doing His work.

B. Growing in the knowledge of God, "and increasing in the knowledge of God": Prayer help the people to go deep into His Word and understand well from the Scripture the will of God and grasp the sound teaching.

C. To be strengthen and have great endurance and patience, "11 Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness": Prayer help the people to stand firm in faith and not to compromise while facing hardships and troubles.

D. Joyfully giving thanks to God the Father, "12 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:" Prayer help the people to joyfully give thanks to God and faithfully serve Him. And that reflects their faithfulness to God who called them and gave them inheritance among the saints.

Paul also wrote in his letter to the Colossians the following: **"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."** (Colossians 4:12 KJV) What Paul mentioned here that Epaphras their leader was praying for them and from his prayer we can grasp the following points to apply in our lives of prayer praying for others:

a. Wrestling for them always in prayer, "always labouring fervently for you in prayers": Earnest and sincere prayer is needed for people before they are corrected and straightened by God.

b. Praying for the people to stand firm and not to compromise, "that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God": Prayer helps the people to stand firm perfectly with God and become complete in doing the whole will of God.

c. Praying for the people to be maturing and resting assured with God's Word and His promises that they will fully trust God, "that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God": That as they will obey Him and apply His Word, He will fulfill to them all what He had promised them.

My Dear and Beloved: * Set your mind and thoughts with God and pray according to God's Word and ask Him to strengthen you and help you to finish His work and to raise up workers to help you in doing that. * Follow the example of Jesus how he prayed for laborers to be sent to the harvest field. **"38 Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest."** (Matthew 9:38 KJV) * Follow the example of Paul how he prayed for his disciples, workers and the churches that were under His care. * 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 Jesus name who died on the cross for my sins and rose from death to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your Word that

teaches me how to pray and how to be more effective in my life of prayer. Lord thank you for all the material blessings that you bestowed in my life and thank you for all the spiritual blessings, the spiritual gifts and the ministry that you had given to me. Lord thank you for all the teaching, the corrections, the rebukes and the admonishments 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, anxieties and fears. Repent of your worldliness, your love for material things, and your yoke with non believers and many friends. Repent of your selfishness, and your lack of commitment and non willingness to give and serve God. Repent of being bad example to others. Repent of 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 cleanse my mind from worries and anxiety, separate me from the source of fear and bad news, strengthen my hands to finish the works of yours, and send people with me to help in doing that. Lord I commit myself for all the teaching we received in this message. Lord give me more insight how to pray and give me perseverance to pray earnestly and have more faith in you that you will do great things in the life of the people that I am praying for. That they will be fruitful, strengthened and mature, and that you will open more doors for your Word to be preached and the message to be honored in the life of those new people that you will enable us to reach. Lord protect me and those serving you with me. Lord continue to provide for me and meet all my needs. Lord mold me and make my life a good testimony to others to follow 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 and apply all the teachings we received in this message. Lord protect them and provide for them so they will continue to live for you, serving you. Lord make them fruitful, disciples makers and good example to others to follow you. Lord answer their prayers and prosper their ministries. Lord protect them, provide 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 you will give us discernment of how to apply all what we learned in the ministries and the church that you entrusted to us. Lord give us discernment and direct us of what we need to pray and how to pray for the disciples and the various congregations of the church. Lord send forth more laborers into the harvest fields to serve you with 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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