

Prayer Part 5

Prayer had important rule in our lives and it give us great privileges and make our lives easier and more fruitful. Prayer can affect events and brings profound changes on the realities.

Even short prayers are meaningful in our lives, but we must know how to pray; the Bible has many examples of prayers of men and women of God their prayers had brought many changes and made the difference.

Samuel when faced the Israelites with their sins when they asked God for a king and had rebuked them he showed them the value of repentance and gave them hope if they would turn from their sins and start to serve God, *“20 And Samuel said unto the people, Fear not: ye have done all this wickedness: yet turn not aside from following the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart; 21 And turn ye not aside: for then should ye go after vain things, which cannot profit nor deliver; for they are vain. 22 For the LORD will not forsake his people for his great name's sake: because it hath pleased the LORD to make you his people.”* (1 Samuel 12:20-22 KJV)

But just after finished saying that to the people Samuel stated his position and his impact on the people's lives when he said to them the following: *“23 Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you: but I will teach you the good and the right way:”* (1 Samuel 12:23 KJV) Samuel put assertively his commitment to serve God in two aspects:

1. To continue in prayerful life: Samuel committed himself to the Lord to pray for the people who sinned against the Lord; asking God forgiveness for their sins, to enlighten their minds and to show them the bad consequences of their sins, to convict them in their wrong doings, and to raise other people to serve Him and to replace those who went away from the right way. *In the same way we need to continue to pray for the people in order to repent and come back to God and start to serve Him.*

2. To continue to teach the people: Samuel did not leave his post or office to others. He kept his position as prophet of God who will declare to the people God's will and to continue to teach them the ways of God, and to show them their sins till they will repent. ** A steadfast spirit to face, rebuke and correct the people is our commitment to serve the Lord. We should not give up if the people not responding but to continue to follow up them. * After a session of teaching then we give the people a space to digest what they had received from us. And that it will be a time for us to observe the changes in their lives and evaluate them. After the period of evaluation we pray to God to lead us and prepare us of how to teach the people and guide them further to live in God's will.*

Patient and perseverance is required in order to reap the fruit that God promised in His Word, *“7 Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain.”* (James 5:7 KJV)

Another example of how important is the prayer and how valuable it is strategically, is from the example of David's life. When David heard that Ahithophel is advising Absalom to attack him, he prayed to nullify that threat against him: *“31 And one told David, saying, Ahithophel is among the conspirators with Absalom. And David said, O LORD, I pray thee, turn the counsel of Ahithophel into foolishness.”* (2 Samuel 15:31 KJV)

David was in the mid of troubles but he did not surrender to the enemy. He acted in full faith and trust unto God. His prayer played a very important rule for his behalf and in behalf of the people who were with him.

If there are people who are planning to attack you and harm you, pray with faith and full trust in God that He will turn their advices into foolishness and that finally will work it out for your protection and wellbeing, and for the protection and wellbeing for the people who are with you, who are your family, your children, your ministry, the church that you are in, and the society and the nation that you live with.

Life of prayer enlightens our minds and helps us to find the way that God had created for us to pursue. Nehemiah when he heard the bad news about Jerusalem, he was sad, he prayed, fasted, and he continued his duty for he was a cupbearer. However one day the king asked him, *“2 Wherefore the king said unto me, Why is thy countenance sad, seeing thou art not sick? this is nothing else but sorrow of heart. Then I was very sore afraid,”* (Nehemiah 2:2 KJV) That was God's way to open for Nehemiah to tell the king about the miserable situation of Jerusalem city. Then the king asked Nehemiah: *“4 Then the king said unto me, For what dost thou make request? So I prayed to the God of heaven.”* (Nehemiah 2:4 KJV) Nehemiah responded to the king with prayer, *“So I prayed to the God of heaven.”* That prayer in the mid of that important discussion between Nehemiah and the king gave him the courage and the wisdom to ask the king to send him and to support him to go forward to fulfill the vision that God gave him to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.

** How we apply this Scripture of God in our lives? Our sadness because we are burdened with the things of God and how His people are harassed being in bondages and we ought to help them; we need provision, support and approval to be sent and in the mid of all that prayer can help us to overcome and achieve that. * You ought to pray for key persons in your life, especially those who are over you who have the authority, who through them you might receive God's blessings to you and can go forward with the vision of God.*

Let us study more Scriptures about prayers: *“5 And he said unto them, Which of you shall have a friend, and shall go unto him at midnight, and say unto him, Friend, lend me three loaves; 6 For a friend of mine in his journey is come to me, and I have nothing to set before him? 7 And he from within shall answer and say, Trouble me not: the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give thee. 8 I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needeth.”* (Luke 11:5-8 KJV)

Boldness and persistence in prayer is what the Lord wants to see in our lives. We have a friendship and relationship with the Lord and the Lord expect to see in us faith and full trust in Him.

In the parable that Jesus said, the man who was knocking the door even heard his friend telling him, ***“I cannot rise and give thee.”*** but the man did not get discouraged and went away but he showed persistence and continued to knock till he received what he needed.

The same for us now and this very day; the Lord wants to see in us faithfulness and commitment to stay at His door and be at His feet and not to go to others in order for us to get what we need

“9 And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. 10 For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.” (Luke 11:9-10 KJV) In prayer we are asking God our needs, knocking His door to open for us and relief us, and seeking His will and plan for our lives.

“21 Then Jesus went thence, and departed into the coasts of Tyre and Sidon. 22 And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil. 23 But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us. 24 But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel. 25 Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me. 26 But he answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs. 27 And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table. 28 Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour.” (Matthew 15:21-28 KJV)

Many also read that above Scripture about the Canaanite woman and they take the impression that the Lord did not like or accept that woman because He answered His disciples the following: ***“I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”*** And some also they question whether Jesus' love and care only toward the Jewish because they put the reason that Jesus did not accept that woman because she was non Jewish.

But the truth is not like this. Never in the heart or mind of Jesus to differentiate or to favor someone over another unless based on the principle of His Word. Jesus did not intend to push that woman away, but His intention was to bring up her great faith to the surface and make it more evident.

* Sometimes God answers you when you pray, but in another times God is silent and not speaking as He did with that woman. But that does not mean that the Lord had rejected you or He does not like you. At these times remember the Canaanite woman and how by faith she continued to draw near to God. Even the disciples' response to her was discouraging but she continued to draw near to Jesus. * Sometimes the disciples of Jesus will discourage you or hinder you from drawing near to Jesus but you don't need to be discouraged, but do as the Canaanite woman did, ***“25 Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me.”*** (Matthew 15:25 KJV)

Never allows trial to bring you away from Jesus. Remember very well your need is with Him; He is the only one who can help you and deliver you from your troubles. So when

you have a problem don't allow anything to confuse you and discourage you and misdirect you away from the Lord, but draw near to Jesus and don't believe the realities but believe what God is and what His Word promised to you.

Jesus said to this woman, ***“26 But he answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs.”*** (Matthew 15:26 KJV) Even with that she was not discouraged and she answered the Lord, ***“27 And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table.”*** (Matthew 15:27 KJV) **Certain Scripture that you may read and understand that some blessings are far from you, but don't take the Scripture with a pessimistic impression.** The woman did not say to the Lord 'No,' but she said, ***“Truth, Lord”*** and her faith enabled her to see the blessings deep in the Word of Jesus, and she responded more appropriately to Him by saying, ***“yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table.”***

God always is storing blessing for us, but we need to live by faith and not to look on circumstances or trials, but to look unto His promises and His Word by faith. The Canaanites woman did not only have faith but she had also discernment and discerned that Jesus was the only person who can help and solve her problem. She did not move away but she moved forward to draw near to Him. **You also in the same way don't allow any negative comments, or insult, or injustice or persecution or hardship or trial brings you away from Jesus and lessen your commitment toward Him.** If you do that then you are not acting in faith and you are moving away from deliverance and away from God's provision and blessings in your life. That woman as she was drawing nearer to Jesus she was making the right choice, Jesus' approval and recommendation. **Even the disciples learned from that event and I pray that all of us as we meditate on this true story our faith would increase and we will make the right decision to draw near to God in serving Him and in persevering in life, living our lives unto Him, for this is the only way to be blessed as we understood and concluded.**

“6 He spake also this parable; A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came and sought fruit thereon, and found none. 7 Then said he unto the dresser of his vineyard, Behold, these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and find none: cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground? 8 And he answering said unto him, Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung it: 9 And if it bear fruit, well: and if not, then after that thou shalt cut it down.” (Luke 13:6-9 KJV)

The message from the fig tree is another example for us to see the Word of God and learn more about serving the Lord and about our life of prayer. **As we live our lives for God we live according to His plan and doing His will.** God should be and He is the Lord and the master of our lives and being. And He visits us and introduces Himself in our lives and interferes with us to teach us good things and to redirect us to do the things that He desires for us to do.

Jesus interferes with our lives to make our lives easier, Jesus every now and then comes and does some changes in our lives in order for us to be more effective and more fruitful.

Jesus in the parable of the fig tree His desire was to enjoy the fruit in our lives. * Jesus desires to see us more fruitful. His Word to you is word of instruction, rebuke, teaching and correction. You may not like it, but that is for your own benefit. * As we know that prayer is

a communication with God; you speak to God and God also speaks to you. * Jesus in the parable of the fig tree is speaking to you, to His church and to everyone and He wants a response and action to be taken in according to His word. Jesus is speaking to all of us the following:

1. **“Behold, these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and find none”:** Jesus is upset when He is looking to us but He is not finding any fruit or a real progress in our lives. This is the truth and we need to face the truth and the reality.
2. **“cut it down”:** This is a hard warning message from the Lord to us. This language is needed in certain times to bring awakening, repentance, and will give us the initiative to take certain decisions and suitable actions in order for us to be fruitful and effective.
3. **“why cumbereth it the ground”:** Jesus here explaining to us why He is speaking hard to us. He is doing that for our own benefit. The fig tree that was without fruit is taking place in the garden, as well as it used up the soil by taking food and water from other fruitful trees, and attention and care from the person who care for the garden.

The Lord today is speaking to you; there are things you are fully occupied with and taking from your time, effort, money, your emotions and your thinking. They are taking space from your memory, your daily time, activities, and your resources but they are unfruitful.

* So the Lord is speaking today for your own benefit and good. God wants to help you by removing from you things that are unbeneficial to you and are taking a good space in your life. * Non beneficial things that occupy a good space in your life they are turning you into ineffective and non fruitful. So they are harmful things, and as God directing you to take certain and suitable action then He is speaking and warning you for your benefits.

As God is speaking to you to protect you then you are called to take certain decisions and communicate your action to the Lord through prayer as the man who took care of the fig tree spoke to the man the following: **“8 And he answering said unto him, Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung it: 9 And if it bear fruit, well: and if not, then after that thou shalt cut it down.” (Luke 13:8-9 KJV)**

A. “Lord, let it alone this year also”: * Pray and ask the Lord to give you a last chance to see if there is any benefit from what God is pointing to you as non fruitful thing in your life. Whether project, business, or ministry if it reach the situation that there is no fruit, then it should not be let it go without an action or decision to improve the outcome. * We apply this principle also in the ministry, we reach people with evangelism, we spend time, effort and money in discipling them, and we keep things going on for three years then we need to evaluate the situation and be willing to take an action that would glorify God to make us good steward to what He is entrusted to us.

B. “till I shall dig about it”: * Commit yourself to study the situation and see how you can bring fruit. Try your best to find out what is the reason of non bearing fruit. Pray and ask God to clarify things to you. Study the Word of God. And ask advice and counsel from experienced Godly people. * Check also yourself and dig inside to see what is wrong in you that cause non fruitfulness.

C. “and dung it”: * When you find the real reason, then commit yourself and be sure to do certain things about it. Act and spend and put effort in a time table of one more year. Be honest and act within that time table that is within the limit of God’s Word. *

Understand the time limit is not to squeeze you but to protect you from unnecessary and further losses.

D. “And if it bear fruit, well: and if not, then after that thou shalt cut it down”: Be bold to take your final decision to cut down, get rid, or send away if no fruit reproduced.

E. “And if it bear fruit, well: and if not, then after that thou shalt cut it down”: God is preparing you for another thing to handle instead of your current non fruitful fig tree.

My Dear and Beloved: We need to comply with God’s Word and what it dictates to us. Every one of us the Lord had given him certain resources of money, time and effort, then if you spend that unwisely and more on things does not deserve, then you are short when it come to spend on things that you need to spend.

Set you mind and thoughts with God and pray according to God’s Word and ask Him to strengthen you and help you to overcome your trials, and to strengthen you to continue to program your life in serving Him, living your life for Him, doing your part in advising His people and teaching them His ways and fulfill the vision that God entrusted to us to do. Let us pray

My Prayer: *Father God in Heaven, I come to you in the name of Jesus who died for me on the cross to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for the various examples of Scriptures to teach me and to make me understand more about prayers and how to apply all such in my life. Lord thank you for all your challenges to me and thank you for increasing my faith in you through your Word. Lord thank you for all the material blessings and the spiritual gifts and the ministry that you entrusted 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 and renounce all your idols. Repent of doing your own will and plans. Repent of your lack of faith and full trust in God. Repent and renounce your doubts and your negative thoughts and fears. Repent of your lack of persistent prayer. Repent of your bad stewardship. Repent of your lack of reading God’s Word in the Bible. Repent of your worldliness, your love for material things. Repent of your lack of commitment and non willingness to serve God. Repent of wasting your time and spoiling your mind with non believers, friends, the Media, News and games. Lord forgive me, I repent from the following sins _____.

*Lord increase my faith in you and help me to trust you especially in this very difficult moments of my life _____. Lord help me to do your good and perfect will; teach me to follow you and to serve you the rest of my life. Lord the vision that you gave me is only you who can fulfill it. Lord touch the hearts of those people around me so that your blessings will flow in my life so I can go on in serving you. Lord thank you for your Word to me. I understand that you are speaking to me in regard to the following subject and ministry _____. **Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung it: 9 And if it bear fruit, well: and if not, then after that thou shalt cut it down.** This all I ask and pray, in Jesus’ name, Amen.*

Lord thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who repented of their sins and come to you with commitment and fruitful decisions for their lives and ministries. Lord help them in their lives, answer their prayers, solve their problems, guide them in what they need to do, protect them,

provide their needs, fill them with the Holy Spirit, and make them fruitful in their lives and ministries as they responded to your Word and committed themselves to serve you.

Lord bless us as your church, make us good steward of what we received from you and continue to accomplish your purpose in our lives as we commit ourselves to serve you. Lord refill us once again with the Holy Spirit, to go and evangelize, making new disciples and training new workers 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 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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