

# PRAYER EDUCATION

NIYI MAKINDE



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*First edition*

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## Preface

While at the university, a Bible study teacher who happened to be a friend asked a congregation for their definition of prayer. Nobody attempted to answer and suddenly, he turned to me. He said, brother Niyi, define prayer. It was as though I have never heard the question before that day. I paused for few seconds and just opened my mouth to say what came at the spot. I said something that made everyone clapped and that became the base and foundation for the Bible teaching that day. When I got home, I asked myself, how I came about that kind of definition. Evidently, it was the Spirit of God that supplied that insight.

My definition of prayers that day was that prayer is a communication between a spirit man and Spirit God. In other words, prayer is a channel through which a spirit in a human body communicates to another Spirit in the invisible world. Prayer is communion with God. If God is with you or within you all the time, you should find it easy to pray to Him anytime and anywhere.

There are times that you don't open your mouth to talk to God, yet you are talking to Him. This is what some ministers have identified as meditational prayers. There are times that you want to pray but you just feel quiet but actively speaking to the Lord from you heart. But I have learned that if you do that well enough, within a short time, you will be stirred up to pray out.

Prayers should be an activity you fix into your daily schedule or routine. You should be able to pray while doing some daily activities – cleaning, driving, cooking, doing laundry, and so on. The whole essence of prayers is to speak to your God from your heart. I once heard a man of God said “much of the traditional teaching of prayer is impossible to implement in daily life.” I didn’t accept that for a while but I do now. Over the years, I have developed the attitude that doesn’t criticize what others say. I love to take time to prove the manifestation of what they said. Having studied the activities and work schedule of some people, it is evident that they cannot implement some traditional system of prayers. How do you expect a bank manager to pray for fifteen hours weekly? How do you expect a governor to pray for five hours daily? Let’s be real. Even if they want to do it, the activities before them will hinder them.

Yes, there are times you should isolate yourself alone for some hours or days in order to build more intimacy with the Lord through prayers, it should be accepted that this cannot be done always except for those in ministry. Do you notice I wrote *always*? An education needs to be supplied that believers should be able to commune with God in the midst of their daily responsibilities or weekly routines. Jesus had some special times He separated Himself from the people to pray. But it is evident in scripture that even in the midst of the people, He was still in tune and constant communion with His Father.

In order not to make prayer a burden for those who find it difficult to implement the traditional style of prayers, there is need to give prayer education. I have decided not to talk about fasting in this book. The focus is on prayers and that is what I focus on in this book. But I need to state clearly that fasting enhances the effectiveness of a prayer life. Even though I didn’t

talk about it in this book, I need to pass that knowledge early now. It will be good if you can give yourself to fasting once in a while. I believe that ministers of the gospel will find this book impactful to them.

# Acknowledgement

I acknowledge the Eternal Mind that possess the treasures of all knowledge and wisdom.

To everyone that contributed to this book- Akintunde Ajibesin, Emmanuel Ojodun and Kehinde Otesile - I celebrate you all. Your investment remains eternal.

I love all pastors, leaders and members of Rebirth Global Church. You are highly honored.



**PRAYER EDUCATION**

BY

**NIYI MAKINDE**

# Table of Cotents

## PREFACE

### PART A: ON MATTERS OF PRAYERS

1. NO SHORTCUT IN ACCESSING SPIRITUAL REALITIES
2. PRAYER IS BEYOND COMMUNICATION TO GOD
3. PRAYER IS OF THE HEART
4. SPEND QUALITY TIME TO PRAY
5. PRAY IN THE SPIRIT ALWAYS
6. BREAKTHROUGH IN PRAYERS IS REALIZABLE
7. THE YOUNG BELIEVERS EXCITEMENT
8. GOD REWARDS CONSISTENCY
9. PRAYER IS NOT IN VOICE BUT IN THE HEART
10. THE TRUTH MAKES FREE
11. PRAYER POSTURES
12. EYES CLOSURE

### PART B: ON THE MATTERS OF PRAYERS

1. THE IN-CHRIST PERSPECTIVES ON PRAYERS
2. MAKE YOUR DESIRES KNOWN TO GOD
3. MAINTAINING THE BALANCE
4. WHY WEEP IN PRAYERS?

5. SPEAK TO GOD
6. BE SPECIFIC
7. PRAYER EDUCATION

# FACT

There is a portion of everything God has that can accompany prayers. Let's identify few of the things God has. God has wisdom, favor, mercy, power, grace, glory, honor, blessings, knowledge, understanding, authority, dominion, etc. All of these mentioned can come to a man as a result of His prayer.

There is nothing God has that you cannot get from Him in prayers. If you need the mercy of God, you can get it in prayers. If you need the favor of God, you can get it in prayers. If you need the wisdom of God, you can get it in prayers.

I read a lot and I do much of it. But I can share few things with you that I didn't learned but only received it. In fact, for me, wisdom flow more to me when I finish praying. You cannot be addicted to prayers and not get to receive something from the Lord. If you are prayerful, there is nothing you cannot believe God for. The substance of faith naturally will increase in your life when you are addicted to prayers.

I pray that God will grant you insights as you read further. Amen.

## **PART A**

### **ON MATTERS OF PRAYERS**



## NO SHORTCUT IN ACCESSING SPIRITUAL REALITIES

“Pastor Niyi has a unique gift of prayer upon his life,” said by a brother. Have you heard people talk about the gift of prayer? Whoever is seen to be consistent in prayer is believed to have the gift of prayer. The real fact is that there’s nothing like the gift of prayers. Prayer is not a gift. There’s no one gifted to be prayerful. I don’t have the gift of prayer. Where do people get such statement from? Statement like this has produced many lazy folks in the body of Christ. They don’t pray or pray much because they don’t have the gift. I didn’t know early that my dad didn’t have the gift of prayer. I used to think he has the gift of prayers because for over nineteen years that I observed my dad, he would pray for three hours every morning before he goes to work. My conclusion then was that anyone that could pray like this must be gifted with prayer. But as I grew in understanding, I discovered he only trained himself to pray long and it became part of him. Get this, anything connected to the prophetic will always requires prayers. I am not a modern day preacher, so I

can tell the truth to you. Our generation, especially the emerging or succeeding apostolic – prophetic generation do not pray. You believe in the shortcut but there is no shortcut in accessing spiritual realities.

A. A. Allen said “you have to pay the price for power.” Another Christocentric preacherman said “we don’t have to pay any price, Jesus had paid the price.” You see, the world is full of people who claim they know and can do better than the fathers. I will boldly tell you that such is a big lie. Young men are always full of knowledge but old men are full of wisdom. Knowledge puffs up but wisdom guides. When somebody said “pay the price of power” – you know that is wisdom speaking. When another man said “you don’t need to pay the price, Jesus has paid it all” – that is the voice of knowledge. The latter spoke as if the former didn’t understand the finished work of Christ. It’s sad to see young men who haven’t raised anyone go about bragging with revelation that excite the people and confined them not to take responsibility. A. A. Allen raised Reverend R. W. Shambach. The preacherman had not raised any notable or powerful minister of the gospel, yet, he could boldly say that we don’t need to pay the price of prayers. What an ignorance!

There are spiritual realities that are products of our salvation but there are realities that are answers to our prayers. You may not know the effectiveness of prayers until you begin to get answers to prayers. Prayer is an adventure that your mind and body doesn’t want you to carry out. The price men pay in prayers is one of the reasons people cannot be equal in this kingdom. You cannot prevail in prayers and not prevail over unbearable situations. Spiritually, those who pray are those who win. I have learned that prayer is a demonstration of my faith in God. It’s through prayers I turn my fear to faith. The substance of fear in



your heart will continue to diminish as you win in prayers.

Prayers grant accessibility. In prayers, your spirit man is awakened to the awareness of hidden treasures in Christ. This is the reason our experiences are not the same. In prayers, the substance of possibility is formed in your heart. If you believe something is not possible, it's because you haven't prayed successfully. Impossibility is not with God. Evidently, what God cannot do cannot and doesn't exist. When you engage the actions of prayers, God will engage the actions of answers.

All things are possible but there's no shortcut to making things possible if you will not pray. Realities are real things, substance and evidence. You don't need to get to heaven to know things are real and possible. If you can give yourself to prayers, you will have first-hand experience of what it means to move God to speak and act for the sake of a man.

You may not know how powerful you can be until you become a person of prayers. It's unfortunate that ministers of God desire the manifestation of power but not ready to pray. The real secret to power ministry is prayer. You don't need to be prayerful to be wise, but you cannot walk in the miraculous and move in power consistently if you are not prayerful. There's no shortcut to power. Those who desire to work in power but don't desire prayers often end up in diabolical acts. It's futility to desire supernatural results that prayerful people command when you are not ready to pray.

I have seen power-people who are not Bible scholars, yet I have seen Bible scholars who can't describe experientially what power is. I discovered that the reason those power-people could operate that way was because the little revelation they had, they had been able to engage it in prayers. If you only read and study the scripture, the best you can become is an effective speaker. It

takes breakthrough in prayers to really be an effective minister of the word. Until you become a person that prays, your words will lack power.

There's an aura of God's presence that will accompany you if you love prayers. Prayers make you visible to God, satan and men. Your presence will become unique and heavy because of the divine presence of God that you make contact with regularly. You can't touch God always and not be heavy spiritually. There's a weight of glory that rests on people when they give themselves to praying regularly. Do you know that prayers opens up your spirit man to realities in God? A contact with God in prayers is a contact with a reality that exists in Him.

One day I was praying and I saw in a vision a huge hand over my head. That was the first time I saw the hand of God. At another time, I was very sick, so I prayed to the Lord for healing, and I felt a hand moving around different part of my internal organs in my chest. All of these are realities that exist in God Himself. Oftentimes when I am praying, scriptures just keep opening in my heart. It's in prayers or after prayers that you can make contact with the life hidden in scriptural verses. The reason many couldn't hear God speak to them through scripture isn't because they are not studious but because they are not prayerful. You can't appear before God in prayers regularly and not discern His voice.

## **SEVEN REASONS YOU SHOULD PRAY**

1) Prayer is a commandment in scripture.

Luke 18:1 says *"Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart."*

Jesus Himself said men ought to pray always. In other words,

if anyone lose heart, it's because such hasn't prayed. To lose heart is to faint, be weak or weary in heart. Anyone that is weary in heart is weary because he doesn't pray always. A prayerless heart will always be weary. If you pray once in a while, you may be a victim of weaknesses or weariness once in a while. But if you pray always, your heart will always be strong always.

1 Thessalonians 5:17 says *"pray without ceasing."*

Believers are commanded to pray without stopping. To pray without ceasing doesn't mean you should pray every minutes, it simply means to never permit anything to hinder you from praying.

2) Prayer is the doorway to the power of God.

James 5:16 (Amp) says *"Confess to one another therefore your faults (your slips, your false steps, your offenses, your sins) and pray [also] for one another, that you may be healed and restored [to a spiritual tone of mind and heart]. The earnest (heartfelt, continued) prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available [dynamic in its working]."*

The continued prayer of a righteous man makes too much power available. Too much power is only available to those who are given to continued prayers. If you don't understand consistency in prayers, you can't enjoy abundance of power. There's a prayer that stir up power, but it's continuous prayers that makes too much power available unto you.

3) Prayer is the greatest instrument to control earthly affairs.

Matthew 18:18 says *"Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."*

It's in prayers that you bind and lose. Those who are given to

prayer are the ones that gain control over the affairs of the earth. You may not be in position of power on earth but through prayer, you can exercise your will in a matter and over a territory.

#### 4) Prayer exercise authority over satan.

James 4:7 says *“Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.”*

If you can pray, the devil will leave. It’s in prayers that you exercise your will over the devil. The devil that cannot stop you from praying cannot stop you from exercising your will on earth.

To prevail in prayers, you must be effectual, fervent, earnest and must not give up. It’s prayer that clear off all resistance and hindrances to your open doors. What hinders or resist others can do the same to you if you permit it. It’s in prayers that you arise to reject all forms of resistance and hindrances.

You must arise to resist the devil.

Luke 11:20–21 says *“But if I cast out demons with the finger of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you. When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are in peace.”*

When you guard you own palace, your goods will be in peace. Until you get fervent in prayers, you cannot get outstanding results. As a believer, do not wait for the devil to strike before you pray, you must always be ahead of him. Spiritual warfare is warring out your breakthrough using the word of God.

#### 5) Prayers open the door for God to show great and mighty things to you.

Jeremiah 33:3 says *“Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.”*

This is how great men receive vision from the Lord. When you call on God, He will answer you. He won’t stop at answering

you, He will move to showing you. It is what God shows you that makes you a show. If God shows you great things, you will end up being great. If He shows you mighty things, you will end up becoming mighty. I can predict what God has shown you when I see what you have become.

Our God is a praying answering God. He speaks according to His size. All you have to do is to present the situation to Him.

#### 6) Prayers changes the destiny of men.

1 Chronicles 4:9-10 says *“Now Jabez was more honorable than his brothers, and his mother called his name Jabez, saying, “Because I bore him in pain.” And Jabez called on the God of Israel saying, “Oh, that You would bless me indeed, and enlarge my territory, that Your hand would be with me, and that You would keep me from evil, that I may not cause pain!” So God granted him what he requested.”*

The situation of Jabez changed because he prayed. Never permit evil condition to be permanent in your life. You should get to pray. Nobody preached to Jabez to pray. He became tired of his situation and prayed to God. The latter part says God granted what he requested. If you also can make your request, God will grant it.

The plan of God for you will not be actualized until you pray. God already has a plan for your life (Jeremiah 29:11-13). It's in prayer you cause those plans to be delivered into your hands. The doors to glorious destiny are already opened, but it has to be accessed through prayers.

#### 7) Prayers provokes divine intervention

Acts 12:5 says *“Peter was therefore kept in prison, but constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church.”*

Acts 12:7-9 says *“Now behold, an angel of the Lord stood by him,*

*and a light shone in the prison; and he struck Peter on the side and raised him up, saying, "Arise quickly!" And his chains fell off his hands. Then the angel said to him, "Gird yourself and tie on your sandals"; and so he did. And he said to him, "Put on your garment and follow me." So he went out and followed him, and did not know that what was done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision."*

The prayer made by the church for Peter compelled an angel to be sent to free him. The kind of prayer that delivered Peter was constant prayers. That's what Amplified Bible refers to as heartfelt, continued prayers that makes tremendous power available. Power is not tremendous because constant prayer is not available.

## PRAYER IS MORE THAN COMMUNICATION TO GOD

Prayer as we know is communication with God. It is a medium through which a person pours out his or her mind to God. It's a communicative channel given to man to express himself before God. Dreams and visions are communicative modes through which God get through to men. God reveals things to men through dreams and visions. Prayer on the other hand is a mode of communication through which man reaches out to God. The former is God reaching out to men but the latter is the man reaching out to God. Evidently, we now understand that prayer is not a gift, rather a communication channel. Many preachers have defined prayer as asking and request made by man to God but it is more than that. If we go deeper on prayer, we will see that prayer is more than communication.

Prayer defined as 'communication' is a definition for beginners. For those that have grown, prayer is more than communication. In prayers, we don't only talk to God. There are times in prayers that you issue a decree for angels to get to work. At another time, you are addressing principalities and powers,

telling them to hands up over certain situations. In prayers, you can speak to circumstances and situations and they will obey you as though God spoke to them Himself.

Do you now see that we don't only speak to God in prayers? It's just that it's only God you can communicate with in prayers. You dialogue with God in prayers, you don't dialogue with angels or satan. The best you can do is to issue a decree for them to obey. In communicating to God in prayers, you don't only tell God your mind, you should also listen to His mind. It's essential you listen to what He has to say to you. Communication is not complete in prayers until you listen to God.

When a person is surrounded with the shekinah of God's glory, such person becomes an eternal being at the moment. The mortality (mortal being) of such is taken over by God to coordinate and channel the course of things and events on earth. You can't be under the shekinah glory and be conscious of time. Whenever the glory of God takes over a man, that man becomes blank to time (minutes, hours, days, among others) and suddenly begins to operate under the cloud of eternity. The shekinah glory of God I am talking about here is not just a physical manifestation of God's visibility but a total possession of a man by the divine for a period of time. When glory comes, time becomes irrelevant, in fact, you can't be conscious of it.

Have you been in a place of prayer for hours and you don't know you have stayed longer like that? Those occasions you planned to stay thirty minutes in prayer and you suddenly realized after the prayer that you have stayed in prayers for two or three hours. What happened? It didn't occur to you while praying that you have stayed longer. It looks as if you are still within the confines of your set time only for you to discover later that you have stayed for hours. The reason for such is that



your humanity was taken over. At such time, you will notice you can't think about time – you can't even remember time. Anyone taken over in prayers is no longer in the realm of time but in the realm of eternity. God wants us to enjoy eternity in time. How He does that is that He takes over our humanity in prayers. That is what eternity is! A place where ten years on earth will be like one minute. Anyone who experience being taken over in prayers regularly, the prophetic will be natural in the person's life. The truth is that when God takes over your humanity in prayer, you will start declaring things into existence and destroying whatever is not approved by God. This kind of activities are what makes prayer goes beyond communication. The Person of God takes over you and begin to coordinate, channel, command and create things that are not in your mind. If this experience is consistent in your life, you don't need to be a prophet before you begin to see clearly into the realm of the Spirit. When we are lost in prayers, we will find ourselves in the realm of the Spirit.

## **HOW TO BUILD YOUR CONFIDENCE IN PRAYERS!**

### ***1) You have to know that God answers prayers***

Psalms 65:2 says “O You who hear prayer, To You all flesh will come.

*God is He who hears prayers.”*

1 John 5:14 says “Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.”

Let this be your confidence too that whenever you pray God will hear you. You just need to know that whatever you say from your heart, God hears.

John 11:42 says “And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said this, that they may believe

*that You sent Me.”*

Do you get what Jesus said to God? He had that confidence that God hears Him always. What do you know too? Jesus said I know you always hear Me. Henceforth; you also should have such confidence that Jesus had in God that God hears Him always.

In fact, in John 11:41, Jesus said “*...Father, I thank you that you have heard Me.*”

Do you see that? Jesus believed that God heard Him and hears Him always.

God does not only hear people, He also answers. If you call a man, the person may hear you but not answer you. If you call my name, I may hear you but decide not to answer. So, it's one thing to hear, it's another to answer.

The confidence you should have is that God will hear you and answer you when you pray.

Jeremiah 33:3 says “*Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.*”

God already promised that when you call on Him, He will answer. He will not only hear your requests; He will answer it.

## **2) You have to know that God doesn't delay in answering**

Isaiah 65:24 says “*It shall come to pass That before they call, I will answer; And while they are still speaking, I will hear.*”

God specializes in answering prayers speedily. Just as He hears speedily, He also answers speedily. God doesn't delay in answering. The answer may be delayed in coming into manifestation for some human or demonic reasons. But that answers are delayed by God is not scriptural.

From the text above, God promised that before you call, He will answer. What does that mean? You know I have established that

it's the prayers that flows out of your heart that God responds to. So, if you desire something and it's in your heart, before you open your mouth to talk about it to God, He will answer you. In other words, before you say it with your mouth, He has heard it from your heart.

Daniel 10:12-13 says *"Then he said to me, 'Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words. But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia.'"*

Do you see that? From the first day that Daniel prayed, God heard and answered him by sending an angel to him. The answer was sent from the first day he started the prayer but reached him on the twenty first day. The reason for the delay wasn't from God but from a demonic prince. What I want you to see there is that God heard and answered Daniel from the first day of his prayers. Can you now see that God doesn't delay in answering? That must be your confidence.

Isaiah 58:9

*"Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; You shall cry, and He will say, 'Here I am.' 'If you take away the yoke from your midst, The pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness."*

Scripture says you shall call and the Lord shall answer. God hears when you pray to Him but much more, He also answers.

You must never go to God in prayers as a beggar. You should approach Him with boldness since He's your Father.

Hezekiah got a bad reports and prayed. In less than five minutes, God answered him. You can change negative prophecy or report through prayers.

### 3

## PRAYER IS OF THE HEART

Another fact is that prayer is not in time neither is it in the voice but in the heart. The hours or time spent in prayers doesn't determine the efficiency of your prayer. Yes, it's good to spend a longer time in prayers. But it should be noted that too much time doesn't mean effective prayers if the heart is not totally connected. God weighs the effectiveness and power of our prayer based on the heart not on time. It's the heart that generate weight in prayers not time. I have established that time is irrelevant to God in prayer. What matters is your heart. What God and angel look at is not the time you spent in prayers, but your heart in prayer. The right heart will always spend long hours in prayers either regularly or occasionally.

Kindly follow me carefully here: Some preachers and teachers believe and teach that prayer is not in the measure of time spent but in heart. So, they encourage that what a believer should focus on is the heart and forget the time. That is correct but not complete. I frowned at such teaching because it is not completely explained to believers. We need to balance our teachings as

preachers and teachers of the Word. The fact that prayer is not in time spent but the rightness and connectivity of heart does not mean you should not spend much time in prayers. I am not saying you have to pray for ten hours or fifteen hours daily. No! My explanation is that, God wants you to fellowship with Him, He desires your time with Him. Do you know that the teaching that prayer is a matter of the heart has brought confusion to some believers which limits them to ten or fifteen minutes' prayer daily?

I believe ten to fifteen minutes' prayer daily is very effective and powerful – only if it is done daily because there is power in consistency. From my experience, I have discovered that if you are consistent with your ten to fifteen minutes' prayer, a day will come that God will take your time. He will bundle your heart in such a way that you will spend one hour and think you have spent fifteen minutes.

While you pray genuinely from your heart, you should be diligent to spend quality time with the Lord. There are things you can't receive from the Lord if you don't spend quality time with Him. There's a level of energy you cannot generate within your spirit unless you are ready to stay longer in prayers. Spiritual breakthroughs are real. Sometimes, it takes consistency of long hours of prayers to breakthrough into certain realities in the spirit. I remember the first time I really moved in the miraculous power of God. That's many years ago. I had been led by God to fast for three days before that day. So, on that third day, I wanted to break the fast at 12pm but had the leading to wait till 3pm. At 3pm, I wanted to eat but was led to wait again till 6pm. I remember that at 5pm, I started praying and ended at some minutes past 6. It was a longer prayer for me as at then. I mean, to pray for over an hour. Prior before then, the

longer I had prayed was maybe thirty minutes. But something happened, I was to minister in church that night and the power of God broke out as I preached. I didn't touch anyone but over 70% of the congregation were under the power of God on the floor. In fact, the ushers who should help too were slain in the spirit under the power of God. The atmosphere was heavy with God's power. Over 85% of the congregation got baptized with the evidence of tongues. Even myself was surprised but I knew within my spirit that such would happen, but didn't just know how it would happen.

After the whole meeting that night, I pondered on what happened during my ministration. It suddenly occurred to me that I had prayed for two, three hours before. In fact, I remember we used to have a weekly vigil in our church specifically for workers and pastors. My question that morning was what is the difference? What created the change? What's the difference between the prayers I prayed for two, three hours and the prayers I prayed for over an hour that day? It's later I discovered that there is a clear difference between corporate prayers and personal prayers. The two, three hours' prayers I participated in was a corporate prayer. But the over one hour prayers I prayed was a personal prayer. Corporate prayers should always generate energy within our spirit to be effective in personal prayers. It's personal prayers that will generate energy for mighty works in your life. Over the time, I had built capacity beyond the one hour. In fact, there are times I just do a stretch for long like that. I do that not just to communicate to God but to stretch my spiritual muscles. You remember that he that pray in unknown tongues edifies himself. There are times we pray just to build up ourselves.

Let's be frank. The prayers that will generate power will

always require the heart and time. The heart first, then, the time. In prayers, you become high and strong. It's takes prayers to become a commander over a territory. It's the prayer that has both the heart and time that transform men into authority on earth. In fact, there are times the Spirit of God will compel you to keep praying for days in order to breakthrough into some new realities.

What does it mean to pray from the heart? It simply means a prayer that is thought about before it's prayed. In other words, you know what you want to pray about before you open your mouth. A prayer that flows from the heart is what you have thought about before you start praying. You know, some people get into prayer with an empty heart. They just open their mouths to say anything that comes at that moment. That kind of prayer isn't from the heart. Too many pray with empty hearts and that's why they don't see results. You cannot get answers for what is not from your heart. God listens to what you say from your heart not your mouth. The voice of your mouth talks to people, angels, satan, situations, etc. It's the voice of your heart that talks to God. Every time you speak to God, it's the voice of your heart that God listens to. Let me prove it. When Hannah prayed, she didn't shout, she mumbled, yet God heard her. It's the voice of your heart that travels through the heavens to reach God. So, if your prayers will be effective, it must be an expression of what is coming from your heart.

Before you set out to pray, you should always identify the exact things you really want to discuss with God. You should settle in your heart what you want to voice out in prayers before you begin to pray. I hope you know that it was the heartfelt prayers of Elijah that God answered. Too many are praying but their heart didn't even feel what they are saying. If your heart can't

know what you are praying about, how do you expect God to know what you are praying about.

I have learned that it's only heartfelt prayers that are answered. A prayer that is not heartfelt cannot produce lasting results. According to James 5:16-18 (Amp), it's the heartfelt prayers of a righteous man that God answers. Have you heard the word fervent prayers before? Fervent prayers are simply prayers that are prayed out of your heart.

### **IMPORTANCE OF PRAYERS**

**1) *It's a platform from where you can make your demand or request from God.***

Matthew 7:7 says *"Ask and it will be given to you..."*

It's in prayers that you ask whatever you desire. You should turn your desire to your demand. If you don't demand what you desire, you may die waiting to have what you desire. God knows your desire but He has promised to grant you only when you ask. In fact, according to Ephesians 3:20, He has promised to do more than you ask. God can exceed your expectations but He expects you to ask. It's only those who ask that receives. How can you receive what you don't ask for?

**2) *It's platform to change circumstances and situations.***

2 Corinthians 4:17-18 says *"For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal."*

Whatever you are going through now is temporal not permanent. But it can remain permanent if you fail to deal with it in



prayers. Prayer is the platform given by God to turn bad to good, good to better and better to best. You don't just watch situation change; it won't change that way. You have to get into prayers to see situations change. For you to change your present situation, you must pray. Whatever has refused to change in your life only require your consistent prayers. How can you prove that you have faith that the situation or circumstances will change when you don't pray? Prayer is a proof that you have faith.

You must not be part of those that say things will change with time. Don't be deceived. Nothing changes with time. It takes prayers and knowledge to change things. Whatever change you really desire from God should be changed in prayers. Protocols are broken through prayers. You can't be prayerful and not be a protocol breaker. Your situations are the things which you see. It's in prayers you behold the things which are not seen. But you don't only behold it, you also compel it to come into manifestation through prayers.

### **3) It's a platform for the fulfilment of destinies**

John 17:20 says *"I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word."*

Jesus prayed while He was physically present on earth. While He was about to die, He prayed in John 17:1-26. A part of His prayers was centered on His disciples and those who would receive their message. Jesus understood the power of prayer in other to fulfill destiny. Destiny is simply the reason for your existence. What you are born to do and become is really your destiny.

### **4) It's a platform to release divine help.**

Hebrews 4:16 says *"Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of*

*grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need."*

Those who come to God are the ones that receives His help. God Himself is a very present help in time of need. You can't run to God and not find help. It's natural for you to always find help every time you run to God.

Help is when someone decides to make something easy for you. You can't receive the help of God and things will not be easy for you. The help of God comes through prayers. You will have it if you ask for it. Mighty men are actually weak people who have received the help of God. You can't receive the help of man when you haven't obtained the help of God. The help of God is what influences the heart of people for your sake. When God decides to arise to help a man, there is no one too big enough that cannot arise to help that man.

### **5) *It's a platform to stop the enemy***

Matthew 13:27-28

*"So the servants of the owner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?' He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' The servants said to him, 'Do you want us then to go and gather them up?'"*

You are not strong enough to stop your enemies by mere talk. You have to stop them in prayers. It's in prayers you generate enough energy to scatter whatever the enemy has done against you. You can destroy whatever your enemy has done against you if you can give yourself to prayers.

James 4:7 says *"Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you."*

It takes the force of prayers to resist the devil. Until you resist the devil, He won't flee from you. As long as you are in

submission to the Lord, you have the right to resist your enemy. The devil will not stop until you tell him to stop.

Ephesians 4:27 says *“nor give place to the devil.”*

Until you resist the devil, He will continue to have place around your life. You have been commanded not to give place to the devil and it's through prayers you won't give place to him. The devil will want to work sicknesses, lack, rejection, loss, etc. around your life, but if you are given to prayers, he won't have place around you. If the devil can successfully carry out a task around your life, it's because you have given him the place to do that. You've got to get into prayers to get him out of your family, workplace, finance, business and the lives of your children. Remember that the enemy came for Peter but Jesus already defeated him in prayers on behalf of Peter. It's time you start to defeat the devil ahead of his arrival.

#### **6) *It's a platform to be delivered from afflictions or suffering***

James 5:13 says *“Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms.”*

Suffering doesn't change with time, it changes through prayers and application of right knowledge. You don't only pray to end suffering, you must get the knowledge of what to do. Sometimes, the prayer is to help you clear barriers that may want to hinder you from accessing the right knowledge. I have discovered that many will not have access to the right information needed for their breakthrough or shift to new levels until certain barriers are destroyed.

When you are happy, you are told to sing. In other words, when all is going well with you, the recommendation of scripture is to sing. But when you are suffering, you are not told to sing, you are told to pray. It takes prayers to end afflictions. The Israelites

would keep suffering if not that they called on God. God will deliver you from suffering but He wants you to call on Him.

### **7) It's a platform to access divine secrets**

Daniel 2:17-19 says *"Then Daniel went to his house, and made the decision known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions, that they might seek mercies from the God of heaven concerning this secret, so that Daniel and his companions might not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. Then the secret was revealed to Daniel in a night vision. So Daniel blessed the God of heaven."*

God will make known to you what belongs to the spirits if you can pray. There are certain revelation God cannot give you until He proves that you have prayed. It is through prayers you go higher to the level God expects to see you. A man once said, he who had prayed well has read well. There are thoughts, insights that is only given to those who are given to prayers.

Deuteronomy 29:29 says *"The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law."*

Secrets belong to God. It's the platform of prayers and the fear of God that delivers secrets to men. The secret of the Lord belongs to those who fear and seek Him. When God proves that you fear Him and seek Him, He will reveal to you secrets not known to scholars. It's those who seek that find. If you won't seek God, you won't find His secrets.

## SPEND QUALITY TIME TO PRAY

Muslims pray five times a day, Jews pray three times a day. How many times do Christians pray? It is evident in scripture that there is no laid down times of prayers for Christians. We are only commanded to pray without ceasing.

Consistent ten to fifteen minutes' prayer is powerful than spontaneous two hours' prayer done occasionally. Prayer is a matter of heart. However, spending quality time to pray makes the balance. Don't be deceived by the twenty-first century preaching and teaching, systematized with homiletic principles and application, backed up with linguistics flavor, rhymes and grammars, brought out from up-to-date repertoire of words and application of communication laws, among others just to comfort your spiritual poverty and to model you as a denomination worshipper.

I have read all the God's General series written by Robert Liardon. I read the autobiography and biography of great ministers of the gospel. Some of them I tried to read all their books written by them - a good example of this is Kenneth Hagin - I got all his books and read them. I still read them today to

refresh my memory. There is no time I re-read these books that they don't look new to me. All these great men of God that we read about were men of prayers. Someone may ask God to do more than He did with Smith Wigglesworth with him. Yes, God can do as you requested and He can engraft you to do more than Smith Wigglesworth. My question is, do you know what Smith Wigglesworth did constantly in his life? If you do what great men did, you will definitely become great. It's reported that Smith Wigglesworth never prayed beyond thirty minutes but fifteen minutes will not pass him without praying. It means after every fifteen minutes, you expect Wigglesworth to pray. You may say what does he pray about? I asked the same question until I discovered that he was always speaking in tongues. No wonder his sensitivity operates on a higher frequency and had such tremendous faith to make things happen. You will see that Smith was a man of prayer (always praying in the Spirit).

You desire to be like Wigglesworth but you don't want to do what he did. The spirit realm is governed by spiritual laws, and is guided and guarded by established laws. Only those who touch the realm regularly are permitted to bring that realm to the earth regularly. I once read in one of Hagin's books where he said "he used to wake up every day at 4a.m. to pray on his knees." He prayed like that for four hours daily, while will such a person like him not bring a strong revival to the world?

## PRAY IN THE SPIRIT ALWAYS

To access deep revelation, you must be a man of prayer. It's powerful if you pray in the Spirit regularly. As you pray in the Spirit (in tongues), you should be sensitive to the movement of words and thoughts in your mind. Praying in the Spirit will illuminate your mind with the word. Most of the revelation that Hagin brought to the Body of Christ globally where things he got while praying in the spirit. Have you heard Oral Robert? He said all the advancement he made in life is summarize under two things which are: constant praying in the Spirit and seed faith.

Oral Robert taught that when you pray in tongues, you should learn to interpret to yourself - this is the best way to easily access the mind of God for a season or matter. I read from oral Robert where he said "before Oral Robert university (ORU) was built, he would go to the university sideback, kneel there and pray, pleading with God to intervene and send financial provision for the building - here is a man who decided, he would never go out to minister until he felt a touch of the anointing - what will he be doing? He would be in a room, speaking to God, praying

in tongues expecting God to touch him before he went out to preach. Once he felt the touch of the Spirit on his body, he would go out. Do you know that the touch of the Spirit Oral enjoyed as direct approval for his ministration is what some daft scholars refers to as emotionalism. A man like Oral didn't give attention to critics, but paid attention to the workings of God. Ministers of God should learn from him.

Many pastor esteemed Sunday Adelaja when he became the most influential pastor in Ukraine. But do you know what he does? That man is very discipline, he prays for two hours daily. His praying time was 2 a.m. every morning. While others were sleeping, he was always busy praying to God. How will such a man not command results! I noticed busy people are devoted to prayers because they understand a man who has the backup of God will always do things easily. It's always those that are not busy that takes prayer with levity.

There is no devil that can stop Bishop David Oyedepo from praying and studying the word between 5 a.m. to 7 a.m. daily in his early days in ministry. In fact, he has switched to 2:30am daily now. He switches off his phone at that time, and stay with God. How will such a man not have authority and wisdom? I once heard him said he fasted throughout 1981 to early 1982. He said jokingly, I was thin and black: But what we know is that he is not thin today. It is unfortunate that people admire the prosperity and authority of great people, but didn't want to admire their responsibilities.

## **CONSTANTLY PRAY IN TONGUES**

To pray in tongues is to pray in the Spirit. Divinely granted utterances are heavenly language that opens your spirit man



to unlimited dimension of the Spirit of God. You may not know the substance that will be contained in your spirit until you are deep in tongues. The heavenly language sets the devil in great confusion. One of the ways to generate tremendous power is to pray in tongues for a long time. Praying in the spirit is a way of refilling and refueling yourself with divine energy.

Prayers may become boring if all you do is to pray in understanding alone. You will get into abundance of spirit realities if you give yourself to tongue. How can you pray effectively when you don't have a prayer points? The simple way is to pray in tongues. Praying in tongues creates a spiritual order for your life. You utter the will of God for your life to the earth when you speak divinely granted words. When you speak in tongues, you are speaking as God into a situation.

## BREAKTHROUGH IN PRAYERS IS REALIZABLE

In prayer, it can take you time to breakthrough, but when you break through, you soar high. In other words, any dimension you breakthrough is forever yours even if you backslide. This doesn't give you the license to backslide but I only need to be bold to tell the fact. I know it can generate a religious contention, but the truth must be told. Your backsliding state or fallen state can't terminate your breakthrough. Spiritual things are very deep. Whatever God has given a man, his backsliding state can't cause Him to take it back from him - He is God, He doesn't need whatever He has given you. He has everything and He's not in need! The fact is that in the backsliding state of a man, the breakthrough God has given him will continue to function in his life but he can't receive or get another breakthrough until he repents.

The greatest missionaries were men of prayers. The history of revival shows that all outstanding move of the Spirit started in prayers. Mary Queen of Scot had greater dread for the prayer of John Knox than all the armies of England.

Spiritual hunger is not created in the heart of people through great preaching but through effective prayers.

Show me a man with great spiritual influence, and I will show you not a great preacher but an effective, fervent praying man. Prayer is inseparable from success. For any church to succeed, it must be a praying church. The early church was born in prayer (from a prayer meeting on Pentecost).

David Youngji Choo once lamented, that “American will give their money, sing songs, build building and preach, but they will not pray. Anywhere the people are bored with preaching, they don’t need a better preaching neither do they need a better preacher. They just need a heartfelt prayers – a prayer that is spirit-stirring, soul-moving and body-shaking prayers.

You may not know how to preach well, but if you know how to pray fervently, you can win the hardest person for God. Preaching devoid of power is like bathing with ice during cold. Fervent prayer makes the power available.

Matthew Henry said “when God intends great blessings for His people in a season, the first thing He does is to get His people praying. Leonard Ravenhill once visited with friends, and discussed about God for four hours. As he left, God asked him if he was more interested in talking about God than in talking with God or to God.

It’s wrong to say we are word ministry or prayer ministry. Every ministry should pray and teach the word. God will often use prayers to push us into the word and also use the word to get us into prayers again.

The easiest way to get believers into soul winning is not preaching but getting them into prayers for God to fill their hearts with passion for souls.

The easiest method to teach believers to pray is to pray

with them. Great apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers of all time were not great preachers by education. Great preachers are made in prayers.

Martin Luther once said when asked what his plans for the following day were, he said, “work, work, from the early until late. In fact, I have so much to do that I shall spend the first three hours in prayers. In fact, Martin Luther’s motto is: He that had prayed well has studied well. If I rest, he said, I rust.

John Wesley spent the hours or 4am to 6am daily in prayers as part of his lifestyle.

Hezekiah may not be able to do many things on his sick bed, but he did one thing, he prayed to God and that changed the course of his life.

## THE YOUNG BELIEVER EXCITEMENT

A young believer came to my place one day and saw me watching a video message by Reverend Chris Oyakhilome. The young brother saw my rapt attention and decided to join me. We both listened to the powerful message, full of deep revelation, and seasonal insights. We watched how Pastor Chris ministered the anointing to the ministers and imparted the participants with the anointing of God's power. Now, what captured my attention was basically the message. I tried to listen to the divine information and insight communicated by the man of God. But the young man didn't concentrate much on the message - you know he's a babe in Christ as at then, so the things shared were beyond the level of his understanding but I was devouring them. He was captivated by how the man of God ministered by the anointing to God's people. Now, listen to the funny part. After the video ended, the young man began to speak to me:

He said "Wow! Very powerful, I just love this Pastor Chris! I love the way he dressed - excellent and exceptional. Then, he stood up, I love the way he walks up and down, see how he walks gently and slowly, I just love how he talks," then he changed his

voice to talk like Pastor Chris, “You know God so much love us that he gave all His Power to us, hallelujah.” Then he opened his mouth and spoke in tongues. The tongues resemble that of Pastor Chris so much and that immediately informs me that the impartation of Pastor Chris had been transferred to him. Then, he began to dramatize “take it, take it brother; do you want the anointing over there, take it!” I guess if he had that power, he would have stretched his hand to me and said take it! It’s the ministration that the young man saw that excited him but didn’t know that what he saw was a fulfilment of what someone settled in privacy. If he’s not told or taught, he would think it was the excellent dressing, perfect articulation coupled with nice gesture that made up that glorious ministration. Prayer and the study of the word made such powerful ministration happened. I know Pastor Chris is a man of prayer who pray in the Spirit regularly. I counsel you to get into prayer and discover unlimited power resident in your human spirit. Ministry is not about what and how a minister preached but what he has prayed in privacy.

### **MINISTRY IS BIRTHED AND DEVELOPED IN PRAYER**

All great moves of the Spirit were birthed and powered by constant prayers. The Wesleyan movement birthed by John Wesley had a strong emphasis on prayers which was laid by its leaders. The emphasis was a regular practice of prayers daily. Their regular practice was to pray 4am to 5am and 5pm to 6pm daily. The real secret to the growth, impact and spread of the Methodist Church across the world was this practice of daily prayers.

All church leaders and pastors should have a lifestyle of constant prayers. There was a sexton who was devoted to his

pastor. In a way, the pastor was transferred from the church to another church. A new pastor came and someone asked the sexton what he thought of the new pastor. The sexton replied, "I like him pretty well, but when it comes to praying, the former pastor asked the Lord for the things that the new pastor doesn't even know that the Lord got." After I got this story, the Spirit of God said to me, "you cannot know what the Lord can do or give until you discover it in His word and see it with your faith eyes in prayers.

God is ever ready to give you anything you asked for. If you can ask Him, He will give you. There's nothing too big for God to give when you get into prayers. One time, a courtier asked Alexandra the Great for some financial aid. Alexandra directed him to the treasurer. The treasurer hesitated and told Alexandra what the courtier asked was too much. Alex said, "Give him what he asked for, he has treated me like a king in his asking and I shall be like a king in my giving." This is exactly the description of God. When you get into prayers to make a demand, you have treated Him as the King of kings. He shall in turn treat you like a king in giving.

Charles Spurgeon is known as the prince of the preachers. He is the king-preacher, revered theologian and insightful teacher. He was asked for the secret of his success in ministry by a group. His response was "knee work; knee work." The response of Spurgeon reveals that the secret to high impact in ministry is not in our fluency or oratory, but in the secret prayers we offer to God.

I once heard Pastor W. F. Kumuyi that a man of God must follow the spiritual order that generate impact in ministry. The order is that you should speak to God on behalf of men before you speak to men on behalf of God. If you can speak to God

before you speak to men, He will power your words when you speak to men.

There are crowd pullers in ministry. Ministers of the gospel who are crowd pullers are praying people. They don't pray to move crowd to their meetings, rather, they prayed to move the hand of God in their meetings. They are sure that if they can secure the presence of God in their meetings, the crowd will gather there. The miraculous follows prayers. Multitude will gather where miracles are found. John Wesley alone affected three continents when he was alive.



## GOD REWARDS CONSISTENCY

All the great men I have mentioned in this book were men of prayers, who devoted quality time to prayer. Therefore, make up your mind to pray. The emerging spiritual leaders must take this matter seriously. It's unfortunate that the formula and scheme for ministry today doesn't prioritize prayer. If you watch those who have gone far in ministry and you see their setting and achievement, you may be tempted to conclude that that was how they started. Don't be deceived, they don't start that way. What you see today in every ministry is a fruit of the seed they sowed in the past. Your prayers can't change God but God can use your prayer to change you, circumstances and places. If you want God to use you, get beyond the ten to fifteen minutes' prayer and get quality time to spend with God in prayers.

Prayer can be boring to you when you start out. You may not feel anything, just continue, you will soon realize that God rewards consistency. As you continue, you will notice that a day comes that excitement and strength will leap out of your spirit. Why people don't get into prayers for a long time is because they don't have any desire. Everyman who moved cities and nations

for God in the past were men who had desires inside of them.

There was a day I attended a program, it was a Sunday service and I was persuaded by a brother I love so much. The name of the brother was Emmanuel Thomas. He was our president at the fellowship at the university that tenure. He persuaded me to attend that service and I wasn't moved much with excitement. The fact that the preacher was not very popular and a man I had never heard of before also discouraged me. Eventually, I was propelled in my heart to attend the program just to honor that brother. At the program, I sat outside throughout the preaching session chatting with a brother in our fellowship. We were both outside because the auditorium was already filled with hundreds of people. Since we were outside, we could not hear the sound clearly, so we decided to chat and we discussed at length. Honestly, our discussion was worth it but we were missing the spiritual substance flowing out of the man of God. We later went inside at the instruction of the man of God. The man of God called everyone outside to get inside.

As we entered, I felt a different atmosphere entirely and what was coming out of the mouth of God's servant was powerful and I saw an unusual dimension of the Spirit. Sincerely, I have never seen such before. How could such an unpopular man be doing this? I heard the minister said "two angels are here now" and I looked around but couldn't see any angel but I saw the manifestation of the Supernatural that day: Oh I thought, "I have missed a lot". I turned and looked and at the other brother we were both outside, he was also in deep worship, I turned to the other direction and I saw some brethren in our fellowship glowing in the Spirit. It was that day I concluded that I didn't know God - but you need to know that I had been a preacher before the time. That even marked eleventh year that I had been

preaching in ministry.

I started preaching early in my life at age twelve. And at the eighth year of my preaching ministry, God had moved me into the teaching ministry. Also at the same time, I have been ordained as a minister in church and made the assistant pastor of my local assembly. At exactly the eighth year of my preaching ministry, the teaching anointing came upon me and I began to operate in the Power of God.

I shared earlier how I was led to fast for three days which I did. That resulted into the breakout of the power of God in our church. It was during those three days of fasting and my short – short prayers that God showed me that spiritual gifts are for all believers. And that God doesn't give you spiritual gifts but the Giver of the gifts (Holy Spirit) and He, the Giver in turn gives the gift as He will. Nobody told or taught me this before then, I got it by the revelation of the Spirit. I don't know anything like "charis" or charisma! I don't have any Greek or Hebrew Bible and didn't hear that anywhere. Oh! I got it later that every believer can operate all spiritual gifts through the book of Kenneth Hagin. I discovered that God has given the revelation to some people in the past, therefore, I learnt more about it from them. I grew up in an environment that has no smell of spiritual gifts, no charisma, we were all alien to Supernatural power of God.

After the experience of that night, I have seen God moved mightily in other places. With all the way God had worked through me, I thought I had got it all. I thought I had everything about the miraculous until I came across the man of God I spoke about. What came out of his mouth were powerful and the dimensions he operated were unusual. I left the service that day with a burning desire inside of me. My pride was subdued and I realized that I didn't know God. Even the popular preachers I

knew in my nation have never walked that dimension. I returned home, my brothers offered me food to eat but I couldn't eat. The aroma of the food was forcing my attention but I eventually neglected the food, dropped my Bible, locked the door of my room, put off my shirt, knelt beside my bed and began prayer. I prayed desperately that Sunday in such a way that my voice was loud in heaven but silent on earth. I knelt there confessing my pride and calling on Him to anoint me to do such that the man of God did. Why you prefer to eat than to pray is because there is no divine desire driving you. It was that experience that took me to the school of the Spirit. That experience marked the beginning of my life and ministry. If you have not gotten experience or see a dimension in someone that drives you into privacy to pray, you have not started.

Prayer will open you up to God and open God up to you. You may not know; prayer generates Influence and authority. I found myself in a generation that want shortcut and that is why believers are going here and there for someone to impart to them. I am not saying impartation is not real. No! Also, I have people that impart me and I know God will still direct more people my way to impart me. God has also used me and still using me to impart people. But the truth must be told, there are some virtues and treasures of the Spirit that no man will impart to you. You must generate it yourself. How will you generate it? It's through prayer.

Do you know that some people seek men of God to impart to them what was not imparted to those men of God by any man? There are generations that believe in Hebrews 11:6 *"But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."* God rewards those who seek Him with territorial

authority, special graces and deep revelation that can shift a generation to the next level.

In the kingdom, Influence, grace and anointing can be transferred to you by men but dominion can never be transferred by men. God gives dominion. You don't reign because you are imparted or anointed, you reign because you are announced. Therefore, seek God to announce you. Be serious with your prayer life and be consistent with it. You can always surround yourself with people that can inspire you to pray or listen to minister whose word can stir up prayers inside of you.

## PRAYER IS NOT IN VOICE BUT IN THE HEART

Another truth is that prayer is not in voice but in the heart. Hannah prayed to God from her heart, only her lips was moving, her word was not heard by anybody, even Eli could not hear her words. She spoke to God from her heart not from her mouth or her voice, and her prayer was answered. What God responds to are words that flow out of your heart not your mouth. What every physical object or being responds to, is what comes from your mouth. What comes from your mouth is believed to be an expression of your heart, that is why it's easy to deceive people with words from your mouth and conceal the truth in your mind. What goes from your mouth does not go beyond the cloud, that is one of the ignorance of the say it and talk it preachers – the faith word proclaimers. Yes, you will have what you say, but whatever you say must first be in your heart before you spoke it with your mouth. If what you say doesn't come from your heart, it isn't going anywhere. Now, those who received the revelation of speaking by faith in the 70s and 80s, the likes of Kenneth Hagin, Oral Robert, Kenneth Copeland, among others, all these

understand the deep concept that it's what comes from your heart that generate results. If it's in your heart, you can say it and see it if you don't doubt.

The modern-day faith preacher, do not understand that you generate force in an atmosphere through what comes out of your heart. It's amazing that most people talk it, say it, and declare it as they were taught but nothing happened for years. What's wrong? Is it that the word lack potency? No! The major problem is that they spoke out from their mouth and not their heart. Most believers just say things that is not in their spirit or belief system – such cannot create effect but whatever comes out of your heart to God will definitely be answered. You may ask how will I know if I speak from my heart or mouth. The answer is simple! Can you remember what you told God in prayers? Whatever comes out of your heart cannot be forgotten easily but you will forget whatever comes from your mouth spontaneously. Get this, the loudest noise in heaven is the silent thoughts in your heart and the silent thought in your heart in the loudest noise in heaven. Every time you speak from your heart, you are speaking loud in heaven.

### **CONSISTENCY IS POWER**

At a time, somebody visited Dr. Edward Payson and asked, “Dr. Edward, you have a great ministry, things are happening in your ministry, please can you tell me five important things in the life of a minister. Dr. Edward replied, “number one, prayer, number two, prayer, three is prayer, four is prayer and number five is nothing else but prayers.” It has been said that if you have prayed well, you will preach well.

## DAVID BRAINERD

On prayers, I will recommend David Brainerd as the model of a praying man. In fact, I read what Oswald J. Smith said about Brainerd. Oswald said “whenever I feel myself growing cold, I turn to Brainerd and he always warms my heart. You may ask who’s Brainerd? Well, that’s a praying machine. A man like you and me who understood the power of fasting and prayers. David Brainerd died at the age of 29, yet, as a young man, in terms of prayers, he achieved what an 80-year-old man couldn’t achieve. In fact, the man John Smith said wherever the move of God tarries, let every minister read the life history of David Brainerd.

One time, during a global lockdown, a minister interviewed Pastor E. A. Adeboye on ministry matters. I heard Pastor Adeboye said, he gathered some people and they prayed for 36 hours and he was very happy. In fact, he said he thought they had done exceptionally well by dedicating themselves to pray for such long hours until he read about David Brainerd who prayed for days none stop. Pastor Adeboye said the life of David Brainerd challenged him to pray more and more. The man lived for short years, but made such tremendous impact that left a mark on everyone that came across him.

John Wesley spoke at a Methodist conference in England and was asked what could be done to revive the work of God where it had decayed? His response to the question was ” Let every preacher read carefully the life of David Brainerd.”

A man like David Brainerd is contagious. His life history is enough to ignite the passion for prayers and fasting in you. What a man who gave his life to constant prayers. He was able to influence India with the gospel because of the energy he generated through prayers and fasting.



### **KENNETH HAGIN**

Another man of prayers is Kenneth Hagin. I learned from him to develop the habit of regular morning prayers. Hagin is known for praying in tongues for two hours daily every morning. His life of prayer is contagious. That man restored a move of the Spirit that has been lost in the older generations before his time. When you seek out the secret of his impact in ministry, you can only trace it to his prayer life. Hagin as the pioneer of the word of faith movement is known for constant prayers. In fact, speaking in tongues is a common act known with him. It is unfortunate that we have preachers who find it easy to criticize the word of faith movement. But I counsel any critic to get the teachings of the founding fathers of that movement and you will see the clarity of their teachings.

One time I read one of his books where he shared that he prayed for fresh oil every morning. As I read further, he practically explained that praying in tongues is a way of stirring the fresh oil to rub off on you. I'm amazed at the faith taught by people today, especially by those in the faith movement. In a way, less emphasis is placed on prayers which should not be. Those who pioneered the faith movement were men of prayers. I really bless God for ministers of God, especially in Nigeria who are in the faith movement who take it as duty to emphasize prayers. Let's be realistic, the real impact of Hagin can only be traced to his prayer life for we know that all physical manifestation in ministry are definitely a display of what have been settled in private prayers.

### **PASTOR E. A. ADEBOYE**

The real secret to the impact of this man is prayer. In fact, one time, God showed me a vision of the night where I saw the list

of men of God and the secret to their breakthrough in ministry. I saw the name of E. A. Adeboye and what I saw written before that name was answered prayers. In other words, based on that vision, I got to know that all the Lord has done through that man and for him is a product of answered prayers.

Every man of God has his covenant. One time, I was on long days of fasting and prayers and the Lord showed me the covenant he has made with few men. In fact, it was during those time I understood the covenant God made with me. You see, a man of covenant is superior to a man of grace. God showed me the covenant of answered prayers for this man. In other words, God had made a covenant with him that whatever he prays for would always be granted.

Every man of God represents a face to the world. If you truly want to know that God answers prayers, study this man. Based on history, this man was known to get into the bush in the bush at Redemption camp just to pray. Many horns he has broken, numerous lands he has taken, many territories he has conquered. The branches of the church he leads is in 199 nations of the world. That grace for enlargement is on the increase and heavy upon his life. God said ask of me the nations. It's evident that this man had asked for the nations and it's clearly given to him. There are things that happens by favor but much more, there are things that happen by prayers.

Based on the covenant of this man, many people have gone into the room where he used to live, just to pray there and they have gotten countless testimonies. In fact, I know of some men of God who have gone there and their ministry changed. To some, going to such room is human worship while some will consider it as child play for spiritual babes. But here is it: if you believe in the covenant, it will work for you.

The lessons I want you to learn is that it takes constant prayers to cause God to do for you what has never come into your mind. The life of this man has proven that if men can pray, God can do the impossible through them.

**B. J. Willhite**

I love the illustration of a man as Pastor B. J. Willhite who has risen every morning to commune with the Lord early morning for over thirty years. He explained prayers this way: some days, you are digging holes, some days you are planting poles, some days, you are stringing wire. One day, the circuit will be completed and you will make contact. Those who are constant in prayers are the ones that will constantly make contact.

## THE TRUTH MAKES FREE

In the early years of my preaching in ministry, I made lots of mistakes in the art of prayers but the people love it. Pastors complimented that style and approach. It was acknowledged by my contemporary and people around me for the zeal - but the sincere truth is that, it was erroneous and not scriptural. Such is like the blind trying to see for the deaf and the deaf trying to hear for the blind - are they not both fools? Thanks to God that we know better today and are still learning. I remember those times, I would be called upon to minister at revivals or prayer meeting, I was a dexterous public speaker who know how to drive people with words but not now again. Those times, we would tell people to call the name of Jesus seven times or more, call the Holy Spirit five times and call fire of God three times, afterward, we will now tell the congregation the prayer points to pray.

When I look back now, I just laugh. I had the skill to motivate people to shout justifying it with scriptures where the Israelites cried to God for deliverance, I quote this to people and taught them if they don't cry (shout) to God, He will not come to their

aid. I preached that God responds to shouting faster and that as many as can shout to God would be freed. The people in turn would shout on top of their voice to get across to God but yet, nothing happened in their lives. I guess people still do it today, especially in the prayer movement churches. The ignorance there is that minister with this style tend to assume that they are anointed because people shouted. Can I tell you the truth? If all they say is not from their heart, the sound of their voice would not go beyond the sky. Why people shout in prayer to forcefully get across to God is because of the revelation of God they have. They have the revelation of God that dwells in the heaven far above the cloud and sky sitting on His throne, with angel singing to Him. And since heaven is far from earth, they believe they need to cry to God so that the God on His throne can look down from heaven to earth and see them praying to Him. That is exactly why they shout and cry to God. If they have the revelation of a closer God than a God that is far, they wouldn't have shouted or cried.

God is closer to us than we imagine. He is not only in space in one heaven sitting on one throne as we think. He's also in our spirit. He's inside of us. Think about God that dwells on your inside. When you get this revelation, you will not see the need to shout or cry on top of your voice. I'm not saying there are no time you will be quickened to pray in a loud way, in fact, I still pray out loud when I am stirred up by the Spirit of God. I am talking about preacher and prayer leader teaching people to shout to God peevishly like the Israelites cried to God. Here's the truth: God is in you. Develop a new concept of God in your spirit and leave out the God that is far. God is nearer than you imagine.

One day, I heard a Pastor telling a praying congregation, pray,

I don't hear your voice, speak louder. I thought, are they praying to you? Why will you be requesting them to pray louder for you to hear their voices? I know his thought because I have been there before. You know if they don't pray louder, some may think he's not anointed or not powerful. Some co-ministers may think he's too cold or becoming cold. It's time for these deceptions to stop in the Body of Christ. Instead of preaching and teaching them to shout, teach them to be focused in prayers. Teach them God is closer to them than they imagine. Preach the revelation of the God in their spirit to them. When believers understand that God is in their spirit, He will in turn show them the revelation of Him in heaven. Which God do you know? The one in heaven or in your heart? Majority of preachers don't know the God in man but they know the God of heaven, the God that is three which has His Spirit on earth upon believers and the two others in heaven. But Apostle John said by this we know that the Father dwell in us by the Spirit He has given us. So, if the Holy Spirit is in you as a believer, then the Father is in you. That means God the Father is not just in heaven, He is in you.

### **DON'T DOUBT PRAYERS. PRAY!**

What do believers pray for today? It's unfortunate that believers of today have become too materialistic. We pray for things rather than pray for nations. Men like John Knox of Scotland didn't pray for things. The prayer of John Knox was "Lord, give me Scotland or I die." John Knox like others was also influenced by the prayer lifestyle of David Brainerd. Knox would pray night after night and one time, his wife admonished him to rest for some time. His response was "how can I rest when my nation isn't saved?"

Pastor David Ibiyeomie once told a story of how he got to the Bible School one day and Bishop David Oyedepo declared there's no lecture that day. He said it would be prayers all through. He said they prayed from 7am till 6pm that day. As I heard that, I said, this was the exact thing John Fletcher did. Fletcher would teach young people at Bible school on various subject. Afterward, he would end the lecture by saying, this is theory, let those of you who want practical come along to my room. Fletcher established that two hours' prayers in his room would always follow one-hour theory in the class. Archbishop Idahosa went to Bible School in America, he didn't return to Nigeria with the theory he was taught, he came back with power which he generated through prayers. It's painful to see that many (not all) seminaries are full of ministers who have head knowledge but lack power. The power of the Holy Spirit is not generated through teaching but prayers. A man who cannot read but can pray will work in power. Power ministry isn't what we get in seminaries, but what we get in prayers.

Great preachers of all times were men addicted to constant prayers. Men like A. W. Toxer, Watchman Nee, Oral Roberts, William Braham, John Osteen, Charles Finney, John Hyde, George Whitfield, Father Nash, Ayo Babalola, Benson Idahosa, Pa. S. G. Elton, John Wesley, Mathin Luther, etc. were men that were given to prayers in their lifetime. Though, they are dead today, but their impact in the world at large isn't dead. It's in prayers that God birthed in people a vision or impact that will immortalize their names on earth.

Many years ago, before I gained admission to the university, I read a message of all time preached by Jonathan Edward. The title of that message is "sinner in the hand of an angry God." The message looks simple but the title of that message hasn't

left me. One day, the Spirit of God enlightened me about this: Messages and topics birthed in prayers do not leave the hearts of the hearers early. It stayed with them either for long or forever. Believers forget the messages of their pastors because some of those messages are not birthed out of the spirit of intercession.



## PRAYER POSTURES

Another matter on prayer is about position and posture. I remember one of the sisters around me wasn't seen in church one Sunday, at night she was asked where she went to. The story of how some brethren came to their home on Sunday morning to evangelically invite her to worship with them on Sunday was told. She told her experience at the church how they had to kneel down every time they want to pray. She told her story in a comic way and we all laughed.

God is not concern with your physical postures when you pray. He's only concerned about the posture or state of your heart. Postures are either a function of human decision or divine instruction given to a man. There are times I would want to minister and the Lord would ask me go on my knees. In fact, sometimes in my personal prayers, God instructs me to get on my knees to pray. And there are many occasions that I don't have to kneel and won't feel compelled, yet God would grant my request.

Whether you sit, lie, prostrate, stand, walk, kneel, squat, bend is not the concern of God. All the above listed are posture or

position an individual maintain as they wish. The scripture does not give a particular detail on the posture to sustain in prayers. It's on rare occasion that the Spirit of God leads people to a specific posture in prayers. Yes, the Holy Spirit can lead. There were times I have been instructed by God to get on my knees in prayers. But that leading doesn't come always. There are times I just feel like prostrating before God in prayers. I do that just because I feel like. We only understand scripturally that such is a symbol of humility.

It's scriptural that a man of God can release blessings upon you but it's not compulsory that you stretch out your hands. Most people quote "1Timothy 2:8 *"I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting"* This people haven't studied the scripture well. First, it's not an instruction, it's a desire. Paul didn't command Timothy that all men should be doing it. He said he desires that all the men prayed everywhere, lifting up holy hand, without wrath or doubt. Do you see it's a desire? Second, you see that it's addressed to a particular gender - the men. So, if you will make this a doctrine, don't forget to leave out the women. The women are not included here. Paul specified the gender - the men, he didn't say women. My question is that, if Paul said he desires that all men pray everywhere, does it mean that the women should not pray everywhere? If these will be made a doctrinal standard that we have to lift up our hand, then we must accept that women are not included because 1Timothy 2:9 says *"In like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing"* This reveals how Paul addressed the women.

The third point is on matter of holy hands. Do you think your two hands are your holy hands there? You missed it. Lifting up

hand is a matter of surrender. He's teaching surrender here. I would accept that motion, if it's lift up your hands but Paul said holy hands. If you talk about lifting our hands, you realize that women are not included.

Joshua prostrated before God after Acan sinned. God didn't tell him to prostrate but He did. In fact, God spoke to Him to stand up. The prostrate is just a sign of humility and surrender before God. David also lie down before God after he sinned. Solomon, his son, knelt down, stretched out his hand at the dedication of the temple. Jesus knelt down, prostrated, and sat to pray. Peter knelt down to pray for Dorcas. Paul knelt down with the elders of Ephesus.

God is not concern about your posture but individual can decide the posture they want to sustain to speak to God. There was a time I prefer to knee to pray to God. Whenever I kneel, I can go on for hours on my knee. But later I found it uneasy to kneel to pray. As a tall person, when I kneel down my joint sometimes pain me. So, I decided to always stand to pray. I could stand praying for hours. But later, I began to sit to pray. Whatever posture you maintain consistently is what will be part of you. If you are a kind of person that develop your prayer life out of a corporate prayer meeting, you will notice that the posture you will be acquainted to is the posture everyone always maintains at the corporate prayer meeting. If a leader usually kneels at that prayer meeting, you will discover that 70% of everyone at the prayer meeting will eventually subscribe to kneeling as their prayer posture. If the leader always stands to pray, majority will adopt that style. What determine the posture of a prayer meeting or fellowship is the posture of the leader or the most respected personality among them.

For me, I can subscribe to any posture and I am good to go

but in the past if I try to pray while lying down on my bed, I would sleep. If you have not built stamina in prayers, I counsel you not to try praying on bed when you just wake up or about to sleep. Get up, stand and start praying. Prayer must be done with wisdom. Many ministers lack wisdom for ministry. You are invited or assign to minister in a corporate gathering where everyone is corporate, you see that the floor is not carpeted, yet you go ahead to tell everybody to kneel down. All in the name of humility before God. That is ignorance and God Himself will tell you that you lack wisdom.

If God didn't tell everybody to kneel down in scripture to pray or worship him, how come a person would tell everyone in a congregation to go on their knees. If it is instructed by the Holy Spirit, then, it can be commanded to the congregation. In a corporate service or meeting, if you receive divine instruction that everyone should kneel down, you should tell the spiritual head of that assembly before you go ahead. The only exemption to that is if the minister is an authority to the leadership of that assembly or meeting. I know some will feel it's not needed or a form of human worship. But I want you to know that God Himself sets the spiritual authority in place.

Do you realize that some people in that congregation will not feel like kneeling but will obey your instruction because if they don't do it, you and others may say they are arrogant in God's presence? This is one of the ethics of ministry some ministers lack. That is why some can't go beyond their congregation. Never should you tell the church to kneel down. I hope you know that God will not force any man to worship Him. He has enough angels doing that. Aside this, God wants His children to look nice. If you want everyone to kneel, carpet the church and see whether they will not kneel down. When you minister,

you must avoid imposing a position or posture on the church or people. Avoid it!

The duty of a prayer leaders is to lead prayers and if anyone feels like prostrating, let him do. Think big: will you be invited to speak to global apostles and leaders, leaders in the faith and tell them to kneel down before God. Do you think they aren't mature enough to know what to do before their God? God created different personalities and He understands it, you also need to get the understanding. Be global in your scope of ministry. Will you be called to lead prayer at White House and tell everyone including the atheist, United States president to kneel down? No! Just say let's pray and pray - everybody knows the right thing to do in the moment of prayer. Will you go to the United Nations and tell the leaders to kneel down? I'm sure you won't do that. You will understand religious difference in such situations. Is the God in the church where you tell everyone to kneel not the same God at White house or United Nations? God is not angry with posture. Postures are not His concern. He's concerned about the heart.

For your personal life, you have to be sensitive to whatever you are led to do or feel like doing. Any posture that is convenient for you should be sustained except when the Holy Spirit leads you to kneel or prostrate.

Sometimes, when we want to show repentance or humility, you may go on your knees or prostrate before Him. In fact, when you want to surrender to God, just go on your knees or prostrate before Him. All these are personal to you and shouldn't be brought to the corporate system. Joshua alone prostrated before God, he didn't tell all Israelites to prostrate before God. If he had done that, the people may prostrate before God while their heart would still not repent. God's focus is on the heart before

the postures. What makes the posture right is the heart.

## EYE CLOSURE

You don't need to tell people to close their eyes. There is nowhere in scripture that we are instructed to close our eyes before we pray. Old saint only developed the art of eye closure for attention and focus. When you close your eyes, you tend to concentrate on the inward flow in you. It's good to close your eye but as a minister who thinks globally, don't tell everybody to close their eyes. If you tell everyone to close their eyes, some atheist could be there who would not close their eyes. Some believers may be there too who may not close their eyes. Before you pray, simply say "let's pray." People already know what to do. Those that will close their eyes will do while others will open their eyes. Since eye closure is not God's problem, it should not be your problem also. Whatever doesn't disturb God should not disturb you. We are in a global world where people are familiar with religious activities. Individuals know what to do on the matter of closure.

Think big! Don't impose a state for eye closure, do you remember Jesus prayed to the Father in some places in the scripture with his eyes opened and lifted up to heaven.

Some Christian traditionalist and conservative have argued that postures and closures of eyes are heritage in Christianity and therefore must be taught as accepted sacred. This is not true. We need to restore some heritage truly but not matter of posture and closure. Some pastors even rebuke their member for not closing their eyes during prayers – this should not be. Let God’s people enjoy their liberty in Christ. There are better things, scriptural matters you can rebuke them on but not the matter of closure of eyes – be wise.

Always avoid whatever cannot be proved scripturally. Imagine you see a member who didn’t close his eyes and the pastor rebuke such. The pastor should be asked how he saw the member. Was it in the spirit or by a vision? Have you heard this before “close your eye before an angel touch your eye and you become blind?” They tell people to close their eye in prayer so that an angel will not blind them. Why have you painted God’s angel as wicked being who have no mercy? This sentence is not only unscriptural but also carnal. There is no such thing in the Bible, even in the Bible, people saw angel physically and they were not blind. Abraham saw two angels that came with the Lord and was not blinded. Even Sarah, his wife saw them. Lot saw two angels, receive them to his home and was not blinded. Same with Manoah and his wife. Where did they get the concept from? Some coined it from Lot’s house where the men of the city were blinded? This statement is not scriptural. Do you even know that in the Bible, men make men blind! For example, Elisha made the Syrian army to be struck with blindness. Same with Paul also. Paul made Elymas the sorcerer blind. The anointing is dynamic in nature. The anointing that makes some people blind also opened the eyes of others. The use of this statement is common among the radical- Pentecostal ministers. Apart from



the fact that this is not correct, it also creates fear in the mind of God's people. Whatever has fear is not from God. Now, even if God's angel appear in a place, should God's children be told to close their eyes or open it to see that being? How will angel appear and you tell believers to close their eyes? oh! What a pity, telling God's People to close their eyes when an angel appear is telling them to close their eyes to the supernatural.

There are times I close my eyes when I pray and there are times I open my eyes. In fact, when I pray in my room often, I open my eyes. Even though I opened my eyes, I would still be sensitive to the spirit realm and what God has to say. The whole purpose for closing your eyes is to be able to concentrate and focus in prayers. Closing eyes in prayers helps you avoid certain distractions that may want to come your way.

## **PART B**

### **ON THE MATTERS OF PRAYERS**

## THE IN-CHRIST PERSPECTIVES ON PRAYERS

The new creation preachers are missing something on the matter of prayers. You see, if we will grow concerning spiritual matters, the “I know it all” mentality must be discarded. You don’t know all and can’t know all. The “I know it all” syndrome has affected many people and caged them not to access the path of spiritual advancement. There is an error that is spreading like cancer in the body of Christ. This is the aspect I want to explicitly explain.

The ‘In-Christ preachers’ are those whose emphasis is that all believers are in Christ. They have taught and still teaching that believers don’t need to pray any other prayers except praying in the Spirit and prayers found in the epistles. Their perspectives and suggestions to believers on that is solid, scriptural and sound but it’s not the finality of prayer. Believers can be taught to pray in tongues regularly as this is the best method of prayer to reach out to God.

The second affirmation constructively taught to believers is that they are new creation and must get acquainted to praying

only prayers found in the epistles. Believers are encouraged to pray regularly the prayers prayed by Paul and should consistently do this. However, their shallow perspective is that if you pray some of the prayers in the Old Testament writings and the Gospel books, you are only wasting your time. They have concluded that everything they said in the Old Testament has been fulfilled in Christ. They also connect everything in the Bible to Christ but are blind of the other reality – truth God is showing them. You teach all the in Christ doctrines, principles systematically applied to believers' life and their situations, yet believers are powerless. All you're teaching have not gotten to a level where a group can take it and dominate territories for Christ. You teach what God has done but don't introduce them to what they should do. I hope you realize that some of our fathers don't have all the revelation you have but they operate in such power that this generation has not walked in. We haven't touched half of what our fathers touched in regards to power.

Do you notice that the in Christ message lack potency to drive believers to the place of prayer? It lacks the capacity to generate burning desires in the heart of men. What are you teaching? The people are growing in knowledge, but are still toddlers in the things of the Spirit. Let me tell you how they get this regular insight. They listen to the unscriptural part of a preacher's message, unscriptural point expressed by believers, then they made their study on it and come up with a teaching. I'm not in any way saying the new creation message are not good but I am referring to some of the emphasis.

These preachers have instructed believers in their cage to only pray the following prayers: Ephesians 1:17-21, Ephesians 3:16-19, Colossians 1: 9-12, among others

**Ephesians 1:17–21**

*[17]that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him,*

*[18]the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,*

*[19]and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power*

*[20]which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,*

*[21]far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.*

**Ephesians 3:16–19**

*[16]that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man,*

*[17]that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love,*

*[18]may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—*

*[19]to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.*

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They have been taught to only pray the kind of prayer found in these manners, to affirm and declare these alone regularly. Yes, they are good, effective but they aren't the finality of prayer. I also teach believers to pray those Pauline prayers, but I don't limit believers to that. There are other prayers we can make that are not written in the scripture. For example, we will tell a barren woman like Hannah to keep praying the Pauline prayers alone without educating her that she can make her request known to God. The question is that was it Pauline prayer that Hannah prayed?

Scripture informs us that Paul the Apostle prayed for many people but the prayers he prayed were not mentioned - both the church and individuals. You see that he told them individually that he always makes mention of them in his prayer but he didn't state the content of his prayers.

In 2 Timothy 1:3 Paul wrote, *"I thank God, whom I serve with a pure conscience, as my forefathers did, as without ceasing I remember you in my prayers night and day"* Apostle Paul told Timothy that he makes mention of him without ceasing in prayers. Paul told Timothy in 1 Timothy 5:23 *"No longer drink only water, but use a little wine for your stomach's sake and your frequent infirmities."* Do you want to tell me that Paul would not include Timothy sickness in his prayer? Was that written? No! The teaching of the in Christ preachers and teachers is good, sound and healthy but it's not complete. Only few of them have the understanding of the charismatic, liberal preachers who know how to create things by the word and make demand of your inheritances. Preachers who know how to create things by the word and make demand of their inheritances, few of them

know about the prophetic prayers. However, they need to be taught again.

Although the teaching of the new creation preachers has greatly helped a lot. It has gotten believers out of ignorance. The teaching has helped to correct some of the errors of the radicals. A man of God once said you don't pray two kind of prayer

1. You don't tell God what he has done
2. You don't tell God to do what He has told you to do.

To a certain extent, the exposition of these preachers has opened our understanding to see what God has done and helped believers to adjust their mode of prayers. Imagine a believer saying "God brings salvation", another saying, "God should send the Spirit of Christ to him." You see, after salvation has been perfected and the Spirit of Christ has been received by all believers, yet you still see some people praying to God to do what He has done.

### **WHY DO WE NEED PRAYER POINTS?**

One time I asked, why do we need prayer points? To me, we can just keep praying in tongues and we will keep communicating with God. Amazingly, God supplied the insight to me by asking me, can you trace the numbers of prayers offered by David in Psalms alone? I pondered on that. Actually, the reason I asked myself that question was because of two reasons: first, I was instructed by the Lord to write a book in volumes. The title of the book is Prayer Force. I explained certain things and gave prayer points. The second reason I asked the question was because I heard a man of God that said, believers don't need prayer points. He said prayer points are for babes in the faith.

The statement of that preacher got me confused in a way but as I grew in understanding, I discovered that no preacher can speak or teach beyond what he knows.

Apostle Paul said “I will pray with my spirit; I will pray with my understanding also.” The former is tongues; the latter is praying in the language you understand. Jesus prayed in John 17, and his prayer points were clearly written for all to read. Apostle Paul prayed for the churches – churches at Ephesus, Philippi, Corinth, Thessalonica, etc. He wrote to those churches that he prayed for them and also prayed certain prayers for them in his epistle to each of the churches. Paul didn’t write the prayer he prayed for the churches in his epistles in tongues. He wrote in plain language that they can read and understand.

It’s the insight I shared above that delivered me from the erroneous teaching of that man of God. Let me tell you, as a believer, you can get prayer points from ministers or books to pray. The well of revelation isn’t yet abundant in some believers to get to the level where they can pray in understanding ceaselessly without repetition.

Do you know there are 650 definite prayers recorded in the Bible? That reveals that you can get prayer points from scriptures. What’s the conclusion? You can pray in tongues, you can also pray with the language you understand. If you will pray with the language you understand, then, your prayer points have to be specific.

## MAKE YOUR DESIRES KNOWN TO GOD

My point is that you can pray prayers that are not in the epistles but comes from your heart. You only need to ensure that such does not violate the principles of scriptures. You make your desire known to God and He will surely answer you. If you aren't pleased with the condition of your family, job, nation, you can make it known to God. Why most people are poor is because they don't have desires, not necessarily because they don't pray. Many of those who pray much are poor people. They don't know how to generate ideas from God, they don't think, they always want God to do everything for them by praying to Him. No! God will not do your thinking for you. Whenever you pray to God to give you something or change something, ensure you are sensitive to the next thing He will lead you to do. When you miss the leading, you lose the result.

One of the weakness of the in Christ preachers is that they don't know much about intercessory prayers and matter related to territories - praying, spiritual mapping, governmental prayer, among others. Although, these aspects are connected to the



apostolic and prophetic and beyond scholarly acquisition of knowledge. There are matters of spiritual knowledge and matters of spiritual realm. You may know how to access spiritual knowledge from scripture but don't know how to access realms of the Spirit because that place is governed by spiritual laws and codes. Head knowledge of Scripture can't access it. In matters of prayers, whatever is not in your area or jurisdiction of gifting and calling, don't condemn it. Check, you will realize those who take charge of territories, nations, and continents are those with apostolic and prophetic DNA. They have learned how to position in the spirit of prayers, gotten ranked as generals and can channel course of events around them. These are sensitive matters but the new creation preachers will say God has done it all.

## **LESSONS FOR POLITICIANS**

Politicians need to understand the power of prayer. In 1787, prayer helped determined the future of the United States of America in a unique way. What happened? The constitution was on the verge of total failure over the issue of whether small states should have some representation at large states. In this hopeless situation, 81-year-old Benjamin Franklin offered a suggestion. He said he was convinced scripture is right when it states, *"Except the Lord builds the house, they labored in vain that build it."* Psalm 127:1. He said, "Gentlemen, I have lived a long time and am convinced that God governs in the affairs of men. If a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without his notice, is it possible an empire can rise without His aid? I move that prayers imploring the assistance of God be held every morning before we proceed to business." The prayer was offered daily. The change after the prayer was so dramatic that in a short while

a compromise was reached which is still in effect.

One time, a governor was impeached illegally. He went to an old man. The old man wasn't educated. The man told him, "I can't help you but I know someone that can help you." Thinking that the man would mention a lawyer or a notable politician, the old man said, I can point the address of God to you. The impeached governor was surprised because he never knew a man knew the address of God. The old man said, the address of God is prayer. Go to God in prayers and you will find him. The impeached governor prayed for forty days. He wasn't only re-elected, he ended up becoming the political principality in his state. If only politicians can know that God rules in the affairs of men and decides who gets into power, then, they will give themselves to prayer.

The man who can get believers to pray will usher the greatest move of God in a place. It's through prayers you unite the hearts of people together. If you can move people to pray, you can mobilize them to serve God. The best way to make men fall in love with God more and more is to introduce them to constant prayers.

While some people are called to preach, others are called to teach, a select few are called into music ministry, but all are commanded to pray. Prayer is for all just as salvation is for all.

## MAINTAINING THE BALANCE

To maintain balance, every in-Christ preacher should get connected to someone with apostolic and prophetic DNA because such can join you to navigate quickly into the realm. I know your pride will make you say is this scriptural or did Paul teach such? But do you realize that Paul was in Christ preachers like you? He has stronger apostolic DNA, caused breakthrough in territory. Be wise! Also, any minister of the five-fold should locate someone to help him in the understanding of Scriptures. If you have revelation, knowledge of the new creation and you have also developed your prayer capacity, you will rise faster because you will know what to concentrate on and what to avoid.

The new creation teachers will do well if they learn the art and mastery of prayers. Any new creation minister who has stature in the apostolic or prophetic will always rise higher in their generation.

What is the balance? You should teach them to pray the Pauline prayers. But much more, teach them to pray other prayers as it concerns their needs. You can't only pray Pauline prayers when you have things going on in your life that you are

not pleased with. Even Paul didn't tell the believers to pray the prayers he prayed for the churches. We only know it is wisdom for us to pray the same of the believers.

When Peter was arrested, scripture reveals that constant prayers were made by the church for Peter. That prayer caused God to send an angel to deliver Peter. The question is that was it Pauline prayer that the church prayed for Peter. Don't be deceived. The early church prayed and God answered them. I am amazed that the church prayed and where they prayed shook. In fact, scripture reveals that after their prayers, they witnessed with great power and great grace was upon them. Was it Pauline prayers they prayed when the place shook. Was it not words from the Old Testament books that they quoted and prayed into manifestation? I hope you know that as at the time they prayed and the place shook, they were already saved and filled with the Holy Spirit. The fact is that the extreme of the Pauline revelation is erroneous. Any preacher or teacher that says that the Pauline prayers are the genuine and legal prayers for believers is in error unknowingly. You may wonder what is Pauline prayers? Pauline prayers are simply prayers prayed by Paul for the believers in all his epistles.

What is the conclusion? You should boldly pray the prayers in scriptures, but much more, make your needs known unto God. Whatever you desire from the Lord can be demanded from Him.

## WHY WEEP IN PRAYERS?

As it has been established, God is only moved by the word that comes out of your heart. A man can utter word from his mouth – such only flow spontaneously and didn't come from the root of his heart. The kind of prayer that moves God is the one that comes out of your heart. When you utter a word from your heart, you may not even need to open your mouth to even speak but such can penetrate through the heavenlies and reach out to God. I wonder why people weep when they pray. You see most people on a knee posture shedding tears from their eyes and saying “God why me” some will even weep for hours, thinking about their life, their trouble and problems and after few minutes or few hours, you hear them say “help me Lord.” I asked, why weeping? You think God is moved by your cries or tears, so you decided to do that so that you can move God's emotion.

God is not a man and He doesn't change. If the emotion or cries of people didn't move him in the past, then your emotion and cries cannot move God now. He only moves to act with words – when you don't speak to God to do something, your tears can't move Him to speak. Have you heard people shared testimonies

that they cried and wept before God and He mercifully save them? The construction of their testimony is based on the foundation of their crying and weeping. Such people failed to realize that it wasn't because they wept before God that made Him answered them but because they made their request known to Him. If such had cried and wept as they proclaimed to have done without saying anything to God, nothing would happen.

Some other believers will hear such and decide to do their own crying and weeping so God can deliver them or see them – you are only wasting your tears, energy and time. Just imagine if a child wanted to collect ten dollars from his rich dad and he approach his dad crying and shedding tears, what do you think the father would say or do? He would pet the child not to cry and say what is it baby, tell me why are you crying? Then the child in turn would respond with another round of cry, saying my father why are you looking at me like this? Is that not foolishness on the other side of the child. That is how many Christian relate to God. You keep crying before God the Father and just expect Him to help you out of your problem without you telling Him what you want. You need to open up to God and talk to Him.

Some will say God you can see me, help me out. But you don't tell Him the kind of help you want. Of course, He sees you but you need to make your request known to Him. Just like the father of the child sees his child crying out but he needs to be told why he's crying. The father sees the child crying but he doesn't know what is on his heart. So, is a believer case with God. Someone may read this and say no: I disagree; God sees our hearts; He knows the depth of our heart without telling Him. Sure, I agree but let me tell you if you don't open your heart to speak to Him, you won't get anything. I hope that Jesus knew Bartimaeus was blind because it is visible and but Jesus still asked what shall I

do for you? Was it that Jesus didn't know He needed sight? Of course, He knew but it's just a spiritual law that you must ask. After you make your request known to God, God can now give you beyond your request just like He did for Solomon.

Crying or shedding tears in prayer is man's concept and not God's. It's just an application of man to man relationship, in other words, when a man sees you crying, he will have mercy on you because his emotion will move him. Tears moves emotion and can move man. But God is not moved by tears. He didn't give the concept of cry to mankind. I understand that there can be times you are overwhelmed emotionally that you shed tears, but that is just an emotional expression but God want a heart of expression. Talk to Him. Jesus said, ask and you shall be given: the key to receiving is just asking. God can see your cry but He will not do something because of your tears.

An old timer may assume that I have not read the Bible well. Such may question, haven't you read that Israelites cried to God and He saved them? Yes, I saw it in the Bible. I may not know much of the Bible like you but I understand that God didn't tell them to cry to Him. They did. I also see that God saw their oppression not their tears. He told Moses that He had heard their cry. That cry is not tears but the loud expression of their request. God didn't say He saw their cries but heard. If they didn't talk, God won't hear. The account that Jesus raised Lazarus shows that Jesus cried out with loud voice, and does that mean Jesus shed tears? Jesus had already wept. But notice when He wept, He wasn't praying to God then but only wept because of His love for Lazarus. Jesus didn't weep in prayers and He didn't pray when he wept. The next time, you feel like weeping, don't bother to pray. After your cry, you can open your mouth to pray.

## SPEAK TO GOD

To see results, you need to speak to God. So, don't waste your time, energy, crying or shedding tears, instead get into prayers and make your request known to Him. Stop acting like babies, just speak to God. Every church leader should teach God's children to speak to God and not to weep in prayers. We need to produce mature one in the body of Christ. God can see you shedding tears but He won't answer you because of tears. God respond to words from your heart not emotional expression. If you can pray, you will see results.

I remember sometimes ago while in city of Port Harcourt, I wasn't satisfied with my condition, I couldn't eat what I love to eat that night. What did I do? I burst into tears and started crying, I found myself saying "God why me" What have befallen me? I did that for about five minutes on a plastic chair as I cried and shed tears. I recalled God's promises and prophecies to me, suddenly, I stopped crying. I cleaned my face. I stopped crying because I suddenly got the thought within me that my future was certain. I know I am a great man. After all these, I went to take the food in the kitchen and ate. As I was eating, it dawned



on me, why would I cry when I could pray to God. This is my personal experience I am sharing with you which I learnt many years ago. Then I made up my mind to pray to God. Today, the rest is history. I can tell you that God answers prayers.

Make up your mind to pray, refuse to shed tears in prayers. Weeping may endure for a night doesn't mean you should weep in prayers at a night. You know some people will weep at night so they can come into joy the next morning. Never weep again! Don't weep in prayers. Refuse to weep! God wants you to talk to Him. When you talk to Him, you will see what God will do for you.

### **PRACTISE THIS IN PRAYERS**

The easiest way to get into the prayer mode is to first praise the Lord. That is very essential. When you need to pray over something important, start with praising God. You can say: Father, I thank you because you have blessed me indeed, you have answered this (mention something God has done for you) I requested last time.

As you continue praising God deeply from your heart, the rivers of life in you will begin to well up. As this happens, faith will be quickened to come alive in your heart. I have discovered that praises get us into the faith realm faster.

You must never pray whenever you are in fear of anything. You should not pray unless you are in faith. The way you paralyze fear is to praise God. The substance of fear will dissipate in your heart as you continue to praise God. Through praises, your heart is turned from your fears to God.

Once faith comes alive in your heart, you have the right to begin to speak words that will activate things in the spirit realm. You have to use your faith to speak to situations, your body,

finance, family, etc. Whatever you speak to will obey you when you are in faith. Praise is the instrument used to stir up faith in your heart when confronted with difficulty or challenges.

There are times you need to continue praying until you see results. Paul prayed three times until the Lord spoke to Him. Sometimes, you need to keep blasting the devil and situation until you see results. It is not unbelief to continue praying about something I believe God did for me instantly I asked. I will continue praying because I am not willing to let it stay in the spirit realm. I will stop until I make it manifest in the physical world.

You have to move from prayer of hope to prayer of faith. You see, prayer of hope is offered for things to happen later. But prayer of faith is offered for things to happen now. When you pray in faith, you know that God will hear you and answer you now. Stop moving your answers into the future in prayers, demand for it manifestation now. There is no later in the spirit realm, what you have is now.

## BE SPECIFIC IN PRAYERS

This is a crucial lesson for all Christians. Don't be sporadic but be specific. Many people say things in prayer because other said it. They never think about certain words used in the place of prayers. It will be so amazing to realize that some words are used dimensionally - they mean a lots of things. When you pray to God and say: Lord save me; God help me; God rescue me; God deliver me, you are only speaking what is meaningful but not applicable. Many speak gibberish in prayers unknowingly. Even they can't understand what they said if another person had told them that. If you pray for help, God should ask you what help? Rescue from what? Save from what? Deliver from who or what? To pray effectively, you need to state what you want.

John taught his disciples to pray, the Pharisee did the same and Jesus also taught his disciples. Believers need to be taught to pray. But much more, believers should be taught how to pray. I hope you know that what we call the Lord's prayer (Matthew 6) is not the Lord's Prayer. That is just a prayer lesson and mode. The Lord's prayer is the prayer of the Lord Himself. You can see places where the Lord prayed, John 17, but you already saw that

Jesus taught His disciples to pray. The prayer Jesus taught the disciples is not the prayer of believers today. The prayer was operated under law before Jesus died but we are under grace. Jesus was specific with what He requested of the Father in John 17.

One of the key points believers must be taught about prayer is the art of being specific. Our desire must be specifically stated before God. Don't just tell God that I need your help. Tell Him the help you want. Every help has a name. Mention the name of your help before God. That is how to get things right. Most people will declare God make me a success. God must ask you which success or which area do you want success? Even if you prophetically declare success, you should declare an aspect you want the success. For example, you can say I am a success in all I do, in my endeavor; I am a success in my career. You don't just say I am a success. Where? If a man pray God give me favor, Where? There is power in being specific with your prayer. Just state what you want with specific language and see how God will answer you. If you say you want wisdom the question is for what? Solomon didn't just ask for understanding heart but understanding heart to judge or lead people. If you pray for provision, you have to specify it. If you want provision of food or helpers, clearly state it. Many will just say: God provide for me, and His answer would be what do you want me to provide for you?

## PRAYER EDUCATION

Do you know believers are ignorant of how to pray? Radical mode of prayers has dominated the consciousness of most believers. The scriptural system of prayer in the last day is alien to the mind of many. Believers of today no longer know how to pray. You can have zeal to pray and don't know how to pray. You are devoid of the right prayer education.

It's important church leaders take this matter to heart and they begin to teach believers how to pray. I observe many believers as they lead prayer in group and corporate gathering that the finished work of Christ has not gotten to the consciousness of men. They don't know the difference between what they should ask God to do from what to speak to Him. They don't know how to get answer to prayers through words within them. The concept of prayer most people has is just speaking to God but not attentive to what God is speaking to them. However, prayer is dual talking. You speak and God speaks. Someone once said "the beginning of prayer is when God speak to you". Believers should be taught to hear what God has to say. In prayers, you should listen to God more than you speak to Him.



## About the Author

Niyi Makinde is a leadership expert, quotient coach, consultant, author and a Christian minister with an apostolic calling.

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## Also by NIYI MAKINDE

Apostle Niyi Makinde as an Author has written several insightful and powerful books, among which are:

1. Divine Instructions
2. 12 Laws of Divine Instructions
3. Breaking Life Code
4. Revolutionary Apostle
5. Power to Prosper
6. Power to Become
7. 53 Laws of Excellence
8. ChurchShift
9. Business Sense
10. Dealing With Human Enemies
11. Wisdom For All Round
12. WisdomPower
13. Prayer Force Volume 1
14. Multiply
15. Tithing
16. You are Different
17. Phronesis For Dating
18. Dating, Marriage and Sex
19. Managing Divine People
20. Power to Get Wealth
21. Spiritual Fatherhood
22. Managing Divine People
23. Understanding Honor
24. Flourish And Grow Volume 1
25. Faith Dimension Volume 1
26. Ministry Laws Volume 1

27. Secrets to Supernatural (Financial) Abundance
28. Running Like the Deer
29. Prayer Force volume 2
30. Making Things Happen
31. You are a Seer
32. 79 Insights Into Favor
33. New Creation
34. Prayer Education
35. 20 Facts about Human spirit
36. Supernatural Visions
37. Understanding Church System
38. 11 Facts about Human mind
39. The Holy Spirit
40. Dominion in the realm of Abundance
41. Soul Winning Manual
42. Maintaining Sound Health
43. Faith for Abundance
44. New Levels
45. Wisdom for Abundance
46. The Power of Meditation
47. Understanding Supernatural Dreams
48. Stop Multiplying in Affliction
49. Communication Ethics in Ministry
50. Ministry Ethics (Volume 1)
51. Warfare for Honor
52. Wave of Increase
53. Praise for Favor
54. Ministers' Training Manual
55. Breaking Joy Code
56. The Power of His Name
57. You are a wonder



58. Roar and Soar
59. The Minister and the Ministry
60. Grace Factor
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66. Stand out to Step out
67. Shining like the Sun
68. 30 Channels of Wealth
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71. Enjoying Health
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73. Battle for Wealth
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78. Essence of Obedience
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80. Planting a branch Church
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