



my **SCHOOL** *of* **PRAYER**

Vol. 1

Serving the Lord through Prayer

Oluwole George-Taylor

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Unless otherwise stated, all scriptures are taken from the Holy Bible King James Version.

MY SCHOOL OF PRAYER

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DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to my Father, God Almighty—the giver of life. The One who has deposited in me His gifting to shine as light in my generation to the intent that men through me may know Him.

This book is also dedicated to everyone who lost a relative, friend, colleague, class mate and so on to Covid-19 pandemic in the year 2020.

The Lord comfort you and fill the vacuum their demise has created.

I encourage you to hold on to prayer to find strength and joy.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I acknowledge the saving grace of God, who called me out of darkness into His marvellous light. Blessed is that day in 2013, the day He saved me.

I acknowledge the mentorship of Prayer Coordinators in the Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG) Kaduna Province 2 I have served under at one time or another who have made great impact in my prayer life.

First point of call is Pastor Magaji Antushi, this is the vessel God used to bring me into the fold of Prayer Warriors. Then Pastor Victor Damisa – that God's general who led Kaduna Province 2 Prayer band and handed over the mantle of leadership to Pastor Oluwaseun Ogundana, both mentored me. And Pastor Simba Luggard Abubakar, the Acting Regional Prayer

Coordinator for Region 30 who is still mentoring me. To you all, I say a big thank you Sirs.

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To you all I say a big thank you.

Special thanks to ‘Spicy’ my loving wife – Kehinde Victoria George-Taylor for her moral support. She bear with me often when not available for the family due to my commitment to the ministry of prayer. Without her I will not be anywhere close to the point I am now as far as my prayer ministry is concern. I love you so much my darling.

Love to my boys, Godly seeds: Mojolaoluwa Nathan George-Taylor and Tirenoluwa Nelson George-Taylor.

PREFACE

Thou that answer prayers, unto thee shall all flesh come
(Psalm 65:2)

Before the Psalmist came to the conclusion that thou (The Almighty God) is the one that answer prayers, occasions such as the Biblical account of First Kings Chapter Eighteen Verse Twenty-Six where the so called prophets prayed to their gods and no answer came must have been considered.

“And they took the bullock which was given them, and they dressed it and called on the name of Baal from morning even until noon, saying, **O Baal, hear us. But there was no voice, nor any that answered.** And they leaped upon the altar which was made.” (1Kings 18:26)

History has it that in Western Nigeria just like many other parts of the world, older generations prayed to all manner of gods (idols) for protection in times of war for

example ‘Ogun’ popularly known as god of iron. They prayed to ‘Oya’ goddess of river for provision particularly children for the barren. There were indeed records of ‘answers’ gotten but only for them to be disappointed in the end. They do not know that those answers were gotten as far as God permits for His mercies sake and for the sake of generations to come including ours. I mean if the Lord has not shown mercies to our great and grandfathers in their idol worshipping, you and I would not have been born.

“Some trust in chariots, and some in horses; but we will remember the name of the Lord our God” (Psalm 20:7)

In other instances, people pray to men (human beings) who they presumed to be more advantaged, richer or powerful to help in times of distress.

“And as the king of Israel was passing by upon the wall, there cried a woman unto him saying, **Help, my lord, O king.** And he said, **if the LORD do not help thee, whence shall I help thee?** Out of the barn floor, or out of the winepress? (2Kings 6:26). This shows that help or answer to prayers comes from God through men, not the other

way round. That's why wise people pray to God before seeking the help of man.

Again people pray to the occult world (witches, wizards, covens, herbalists, etc.) to get political power, to succeed in the business circle or to get fame.

“Then said Saul unto his servants, **seek me a woman that has hath a familiar spirit** that I may go to her and inquire of her. And his servant said to him, Behold there is a woman that hath familiar spirit at Endor. And the woman said unto him, Behold, thou knowest what Saul hath done, **how he hath cut off those that have familiar spirits and the wizards out of the land**; wherefore then layest thou a snare for my life to cause me to die?” (1Samuel 28:7 & 9).

By the way, the foregoing scripture illustrate how among the people who condemn secret societies, witches and wizards in the open are found some who consult them secretly.

It is God and Him alone that prayers should be directed to; He is the Only One that has the capacity to answer with blessings unlimited and without adding any sorrow.

“For you answer our prayers. All of us must come to you”
(Psalm 65:2 NLT)

“When you pray, he will answer you and you will keep
the vows you made” (Job 22:27 GNB)

INTRODUCTION

The book 'My School of Prayer' is an exposition on prayer, also a compilation of notes, lessons and experiences learnt from prayer leaders in the mission (RCCG), from prayer meetings, conferences, retreats and studies on the subject of prayer, from personal engagement in prayers and testimonies that follow, and last but not the least from revelation by the Holy Spirit.

As we all know, in a school setting learning is continuous and every student strives for improvement so as to come out tops. The life of a believer is a school, we never stop learning; no, not until we see the Lord in glory.

"Teach us to pray" (Luke 11:1) the disciples asked Jesus. That tells us that prayer can be taught. The disciples

didn't ask Jesus to make them prayerful but teach us how to pray they requested. They wanted to learn the art of prayer. The disciples desire to know what to prioritize in prayer. They sought to understand the dynamics of prayer. Again to know why Jesus made prayer the center of his ministry and what He is saying when he prays all night long. **May I submit to you dear reader, that you are not prayerful until you first learn how to pray effectively.**

Prayer Nuggets:

- Prayer is not to be copied but should be learnt.
- Prayer is not a monotonous or regimental activity but dynamic and engaging.
- Prayer is not just a necessary ritual done by Christians but result oriented and tangible.
- Prayer is not one of the options but the only option.
- Prayer is not for weaklings or deprived people but for wise people who are smart enough to add the

supernatural to their natural abilities and become extraordinary.

- Every Christian service depends on prayer to be impactful. Choristers, Preachers, Workers all must pray to minister effectively.
- Lastly, anyone that mocks the efficacy of prayer indirectly mocks God!

The author does not know it all on the subject of prayer but is learning and still learning. However, he deems it fit to share some lesson already learnt in this book for reference and guidance.

So this book intend to transfer knowledge, teach on common mistakes, share testimonies to encourage readers on prayer and possibly recruit men and women who love the Lord into the ministry of prayer.

“I will teach you by the hand of God; that which is with the Almighty will I not conceal” (Job 27:11)

CHAPTER ONE

WHAT IS PRAYER?

Prayer in its simplest definition is spiritual communication between man and God, a two way relationship whereby man not only talks to God, but also listens to Him.

Prayer is a conversation, a type that occurs between a child and the father.

God is the one that created Prayer as an avenue to communicate with man; He is the one that initiated this conversation after which the channel opens for man to converse with Him anytime. And because He is omnipresent, location is not a barrier to Prayer as He

hears prayers in the water or on the sea, over the land, in the air, in the prison and any other place one may find him/herself at any point in time.

"Call unto me...." (Jeremiah 33:3)

"Men ought always to pray" (Luke 18:1)

"Pray without ceasing" (1Thessalonians 5:16)

And because God is the one who establish the idea of prayer, He is the one that does and can answer prayer. That is why a man who prays is never called a **prayer** whereas a man who drives is called a **driver**, a man who sings is called a **singer** and a man who barbs is called a **barber**. In other words no matter how highly anointed a man or woman is, he/she can only pray and leave it there, waiting in faith for God to answer. The waiting however can either be long or short and sometimes can even be instantaneous.

"O thou that hearest prayer, unto thee shall all flesh come" (Psalm 65:2).

“He shall call upon me and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble: I will deliver him and honour him” (Psalm 91:15).

“Ask and it shall be given to you, seek and you shall find; knock and the door will be opened to you” (Matthew 7:7)

We know through studying the character of God, that He created everyone and everything for a purpose. Let us look at the purpose of prayer.

Prayer was design by our Father in heaven to address this three main purpose. I am convinced that all other purposes take their bearing from this three.

Fellowship:

Fellowship between God and man. In Genesis 3:8 the Bible tells us about how God use to come into the Garden of Eden in the cool of the day to fellowship with Adam and Eve. God also enjoyed friendship with Enoch so much that He took him. God wants to hear His children talk to Him about everything at every time through prayer. He loves us and as such we ‘break His heart’ when we don’t pray. That is why He promised to

answer us whenever we pray. So prayer is for fellowship with God.

Receiving:

Genesis 2:7 says God formed man from the dust of the ground and gave man breath, thus man became a living soul. If you agree with this scripture that God is your creator and He is still on the throne then you need to keep receiving from God things needed for the life now and the life after. Matthew 7:7 says ask and you shall receive. Prayer is the channel to do the asking. You need wisdom or power to get wealth, you need grace to succeed and reach your goals, you want to please and obey God till the end, etc. Ask through prayers and you shall receive.

“Whatever is good and perfect is a gift coming down to us from God our Father...” (James 1:17 NLT). So Prayer is for receiving from God.

Spiritual warfare:

Ephesians 6:12 says we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against rulers of the darkness. Believers must wrestle because Satan and his cohorts are all out to

oppose and attack all that concerns the kingdom of God. Christians are Christ Ambassadors and as such we must defend the interest or territory of our Father. Jesus used Prayer to advance the Kingdom of God against several oppositions during his brief earthly ministry. So we must do same for the love of the Father.

1 Peter 5:8 says the devil is walking about like a roaring lion seeking who he may devour. He wants to take as many souls as possible with himself to hell. This is another reason for spiritual warfare. The force of prayer restrains Satan and his demons.

Moving forward, there are common questions in our minds when the subject of prayer is mentioned or discussed. Questions like types of prayer, how to position oneself during prayer, when is the best time to pray and so on.

Let me attempt to provide simple answers to these questions but permit to say from the onset that these questions and answers that will be provided should not divide us or create contentions on the subject of prayer.

Are there types of prayer really? Yes there are scripturally.

“Praying always with **all** prayer and supplication in the Spirit” (Ephesians 6:18)

“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all **kinds** of prayers and requests...” (Ephesians 6:18 NIV).

“And pray always with all **manner** of prayer and supplications in the Spirit...” (Ephesians 6:18 GNV).

There are prayers of intercession – (Isaiah 53:12, Jeremiah 7:16, 1Timothy 2:1). That’s why there are people called intercessors.

There are prayers of Agreement- (Leviticus 26:8, Deuteronomy 32:30, Matthew 18: 18-20). That’s why sometimes hands are joined together during prayer. But can also be prayed without hands joined, but the mind.

There are prayers in the Spirit or Holy Ghost – (Acts 2:4, 1Corinthians 14:15, Jude 20). That’s why people pray in tongues, a language of the Spirit.

These are not all there is, you will find Pastors show you more types of prayers from the scriptures.

I will like to provide a little discuss on Prayer of Faith. It was intentionally not added to the types of prayers above though it can be a type of prayer.

You see, Faith is a common denomination in any type of prayer. Faith is the currency of heaven. Without Faith no type or kind or colour of prayer can be answered except of course if the Lord decides to show mercy occasionally. Often time we see prayer champions praying with so much energy and might be misled to think the energy in itself will bring about speedy answer, no it is not so. Faith must be in the heart first and foremost. We come to God in prayer with faith in our heart.

”No one can please God without Faith, **for whoever comes to God must have faith** that God exist and rewards those who seek him” (Hebrews 11:6 GNT)

Doubt, plan B, trying as oppose to believing, fear, unbelief as opposed to Faith are hindrances to prayer.

So what is most important is to learn Faith, feed on the Word of God to get, increase and refill Faith because it can be used up.

Faith as a major element of prayer will be further discussed in the next chapter.

Reading the Bible ahead and during prayer time works for me all the time! You too can practice it.

Prayer Postures

Liturgy-which means a customary public worship pattern doesn't go with prayer, therefore let's never get liturgical about prayer positions. I personally don't think posture or position can hinder prayer because God is sovereign and He says "I will show mercy on whom I will show mercy on". For instance if someone is on the sick bed and is restricted to just one posture, he or she can't do prayer-walk or lift up hands for example yet the Lord hears prayer of the sick fellow.

However Prayer postures have significance and it connotes different meanings, we say something to the Father by our posture when we pray. Yes, posture during prayer expresses the attitude of our heart when we pray. Going by this we can safely say posture aid prayer. It

helps us not to be lethargic-a state of lack of energy or enthusiasm in prayer.

Hands lifted up or outstretched- it is a sign of surrendering and acknowledgement of God as the Almighty.

Moses in Exodus chapter nine from verse twenty-seven to twenty-nine said **“I will spread abroad my hands unto the Lord and the thunder shall cease...”** You see Moses surrendered to the sovereignty of God in acknowledgement of the One who can cease thunders. King Solomon in second Chronicles chapter six verse twelve **stood before the altar of the Lord and spread forth his hands** then in verse fourteen he prayed, **“O Lord God of Israel there is no God like you in heaven and earth; you keep your covenant and show unfailing love to all who walk before you in wholehearted devotion”** (2Chronicles 6:14 NLT).

So your hands lifted up in prayers have helped you say to the Lord, I surrender this battle, problem, and issue to you or acknowledging you as the Almighty even before you utter a word. **Take note that the thoughts in your**

mind are as audible as your speech before the God of Spirits who tries the rein of the heart of men.

Standing- it is a sign of respect. You stand up when talking to an authority e.g Elders, Parent, Boss or spiritual leader.

People also stand up when an important dignitary enters into a meeting. Standing up in prayer helps us not to get too use to the Father that we begin to show disrespect to Him. Sometimes I pray sitting down to rest for a while but I stand up as soon as I am done resting my legs. **“They remained standing for three hours** while the Book of the law of the Lord their God was read aloud to them, then for more three hours they confessed their sins and worshiped the Lord their God.” (Nehemiah 9:3 NLT) This they did before they began to pray as we can see in Verse 5. No wonder the Lord had respect unto their cry.

Kneeling- it is a sign of worship, adoration, humility, devotion, recognition even surrender.

In fact kneeling is the position *per excellence*. It will get you in deeper waters when praying. Our Lord and Saviour-Jesus kneeled down and prayed in Luke 22:41, Peter saw Jesus' prayer posture and did same when

Tabitha also known as Dorcas died and he needed to pray for her life to be restored in Acts 9:40. Remember Jesus had prayed at other times without kneeling but on this particular occasion he knelt down. I think kneeling down helps one to get quicker to the feet of God and when God sees you at His feet showing humility, as a loving father He will lift you up.

Lying down- it helps me to express that I am nothing, I know nothing and I owe everything to Him when am praying.

I decrease in order for Him to increase in me. **“While Ezra prayed and made this confession, weeping and lying face down on the ground** in front of the Temple of God, a very large crowd of people from Israel men and women and children gathered and wept bitterly with him” (Ezra 10:1).

Lying down is a popular way of recognizing the superiority of another fellow. By reason of custom or tradition people often lie down before earthly kings and rulers. You will have to lie prostrating before an Oba (king) at his palace no matter who you are in Yoruba culture where I come from. So it is not out of place to lie

down before the One who is the King of kings while praying to Him. When am in a public place I rarely do this. [You shouldn't lie down when it will inconvenient or distract other people praying or where someone can accidentally step on your fingers.]

Prayer walk- I think it shows seriousness and helps one to pray for a longer period of time.

Walking is exercise and energy consuming so one is simply saying Lord am willing to give this amount of energy to talk to you in prayers especially when there is a very serious matter – Elisha in 2Kings 4:35 **walked to and fro in the house when he prayed over a dead child.** For Elisha that prayer was a matter of life and death, a very serious prayer.

It is also a warring position. Soldiers fight on the move (remember those 300 Soldiers of Gideon who lapped water i.e even while drinking water at the river remained on their feet so as to keep an eye on the enemy and one hand on their weapons. Judges 7:5), so a prayer warrior should engage in prayer-walk regularly. For me walking usually stir up my prayer intensity.

Only people who are serious minded in prayer go on a prayer walk. Think about this for a second, how many people are willing to go on a regular one hour walk daily/weekly/monthly to keep fit or shed weight? Except those that are serious.

Eyes closed- It eliminates common distractions. It is for concentration.

Our eyes get us easily distracted while praying even when we are alone. A fly that flies or movement of window curtains is enough to distract you when praying by yourself how much more when you are in the Church praying. Anything the eyes see goes straight to the mind and interferes with communing with the Holy Spirit while praying. **Distraction inhibits the effectiveness of prayer.**

A beloved prayer warrior (Sister Ifeoma) in one of our Prayer band meetings gave this analogy and I couldn't agree less, she said prayer generates heaven-bound smoke that gets thicker and thicker as you pray on, the more thickly the smoke gets the more it travels fast and unstoppable. The enemy gets afraid of your prayers at this point and since he can't stop you from praying he employ trick of distraction, he tries to diffuse this smoke

with distraction like phone ringing, some noise or useless sound and if you let him succeed in distracting you, he waters down the momentum gathered. So your eyes closed aid your prayer effectiveness.

Time of prayer

Early morning

“I love those who love me; and those **who seek me early** and diligently will find me” (Proverbs 8:17 AMP). There’s a special attention given to people who seek God early even though He will eventually answer everyone irrespective of the time they pray. Father Abraham in Genesis 19:27 rose up early to stand before the Lord. Jacob in Genesis 28:18 got up early took stones and made an altar before the Lord just to mention a few. Similarly those whom God used greatly in the Bible are early risers.

Fathers of Faith in our time like Pastor Adeboye, Bishop Oyedepo and Francis Wale Oke to mention a few, reading through their biography shows clearly that they are all early risers. So there must be something tangible

about rising early to pray. See what the Lord said concerning His servants “And the Lord hath sent unto you all his servants and prophets, **rising early and sending them**; but ye have not hearkened, nor inclined your ear to hear” (Jeremiah 25:4).

Having seen this pattern from scriptures and fathers of faith, it is recommended we emulate rising up early to pray.

Mid Night

The significant of mid night is that it is the transition period between passing out day and a new one, hence it is a good time to thank the Lord for the outgoing day and place request for the new day before Him. David said ‘**At midnight I will rise to give thanks** unto thee because of thy righteous judgments” (Psalm 119:62).

Paul and Silas’s great deliverance prayer from the prison was prayed at midnight. “**And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed**, and sang praises unto God and the prisoners heard them” (Matthew 16:25). We too should take

advantage of mid-night to settle serious issues before the Lord.

Our Lord Jesus often prayed in the night. Before He made certain critical decisions in ministry like choosing the 12 disciples or before he engaged on a powerful assignment or ministration during the day He would have spent the night praying. If you want to command the day to your advantage or make decrees that will stand during the day, spend time in the Night praying. In other words the strength of your public prayer lies in your secret or private prayer life. **This is a powerful secret of effective prayer.**

12 Noon

Is half of the day and the significance of praying at this time is to take charge of the other half especially if the previous half has not been too favourable to you.

CHAPTER TWO

ELEMENTS OF PRAYER

Element are basic components, that is the inner workings that makes a certain thing what it is.

1. Faith

Among many elements of prayer, *faith* stands out. Let us consider these scriptures:

“You can pray for anything, and if you have **faith**, you will receive it. Matthew 21:22 NLT

“Therefore I tell you, whatsoever you ask for in prayer, **believe** that you have received it, and it will be yours”
Mark 11:24 NIV

“But when you ask him, be sure that your **faith** is in God alone. Do not waver, for a person with divided loyalty is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is blown and tossed by the wind. Such people should not expect to receive anything from the Lord” James 1:6-7 NLT

What is Faith?

“Now Faith is the Substance of things hoped for, evidence of things not seen” (Hebrews 11:1).

In my book *‘The Cost of Obedience’* I wrote “Faith adds substantial material or evidence to hope”. This simple description of faith is powerful and has helped my prayer life. I believe it will help yours too. In other words am saying believe you have gotten answer to your prayers when you pray. Except the Lord later says otherwise I have expectation for every single prayer. This includes small prayer like when I pray for PHCN to restore light (electricity supply) for me to iron a shirt or do something else with light.

All of our prayer must be based on Faith. We must believe our prayers have been heard and that we are only waiting to receive the answer. Frankly speaking praying without faith in our heart is an exercise in futility. Whether the prayer will be answered now or later, we must believe in our prayers.

Some prayers are ended with “if it is thy will” using the example of Jesus prayer at Gethsemane. Faith is eroded and doubt is fostered with this kind of prayer. It is worthy to note that our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ only prayed using the phrase once among several of His prayers. In effect the phrase means total submission to the will of the Father which our Lord and Saviour Jesus was not unaware of. It is the will of the Father that Jesus go to the cross so the context where this phrase was used by Jesus was not as a result of doubt but for the agony of the cross (cup) He was about going through being in flesh like you and me.

Ending all your prayers with ‘if it is thy will’ erodes faith

So when we are in doubt we should consult the first and basic manual for the will of God – the Bible. Then if there are more to know that is not in His ‘written will’, as a

good God am persuaded He will let us know through His 'spoken will' i.e the Holy Spirit speaking to us through inner witness, nudges, impulses, dreams, vision and or confirmation through a third party like a pastor or another believer. This is because there could be prayer that is in conformity with the will of God from the scriptures but yet the Lord doesn't want to give us the answer at a certain time for certain reasons. He doesn't always let us know these reasons so we just trust His judgment and His wisdom. This is possible but we should keep on praying it fervently until the Lord will tell us like He told the Prophet Habakkuk that the vision is yet for an 'appointed time'.

Personally I have experienced this, which is why am so persuaded.

There was a time I was making a move to relocate outside Nigeria. My motive was for a better life and prosperity. And it is in the will of God to prosper His Children so I confidently prayed on the move fervently. Then one day during a prayer session in my local assembly - (RCCG Revelation Sanctuary), I raised prayer again on the move then the Lord graciously spoke to me audibly. He said *"what if am the One blocking the*

move?" There were other things that followed over a period of time like confirmation, double sure and what have you, and in the end I was sure it was the Lord speaking.

The point I want to raise here is that if a prayer is ultimately not the will of God or if the end result of it is not the will of God for you at a season, the Lord will let you (a born again) know in a way you will understand. But if I have been praying with doubt as if it is not the will of God to prosper me by going abroad at that time am not sure the result will be the same. So let us not assume or conclude for God in prayer because it raises doubt thereby endangering faith. In other times we should not say because there's a delay or challenge in a process of something then we conclude that it might not be the will of God when the Lord has not told you it is not His will.

"But let him ask in faith, not wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed" (James 1:6).

A story was once told of a little boy who after hearing of the scripture in Matthew 21:22 in Church, decided to

pray that the mountain behind their house be removed. He got home and told his Dad that he has prayed that this physical mountain at the back of their house be removed. The Dad laughed at him scornfully and said 'it is not this kind of mountain my boy'. Over a period of time, it happened that road construction began in the area and the government mark-off the mountain for clearing as it will obstruct the new road to be constructed. Lo and behold the mountain was blasted off and levelled. It was then the Father remembered the little boy's prayer sometimes ago and could not but broke down in tears.

You see the physical result might not come immediately but a prayer of faith with right motives cannot go unanswered.

Patience is an indispensable ingredient as far as Faith is concerned. Dear friends, Faith is not in a hurry at all. The patriarchs of faith in the Bible are not 'hurry hurry' people. "...Though it tarry wait for it because it will surely come it will not tarry" (Habakkuk 2:3b)

A great secret and element of prayer as touching faith is patience.

“This now is what the Sovereign LORD says: I am placing in Zion a foundation that is firm and strong. In it I am putting a solid cornerstone on which are written the words, **faith that is firm is also patience**” (Isaiah 28:16 GNB)

It is lack of patience that often creates room for doubt in the heart after praying. When the results don't come as fast as expected, then faith diminishes and the expectation wind down.

God often does big things little by little, to teach us patience and take us through processes to a point of maturity where we overcome the flesh like pride, self-centeredness and so on.

“And the Lord thy God will put out those nations before thee by **little and little**; thou mayest not consume them at once, lest the beast of the field increase upon thee” Deuteronomy 7:22.

2. Fervency

The second element of prayer I would like to share on is **Fervency**.

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

“Therefore, confess your sins to one another [your false steps, your offences], and pray for one another, that you may be healed and restored. The heartfelt and **persistent prayer** of a righteous man (believer) is able to accomplish much [when put into action and made effective by God-it is dynamic and can have tremendous power] (Jams 5:16 AMP)

“Confess you sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The **earnest prayer** of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results” (James 1:16 NLT)

Not every prayer request can be said once and it's done. Not every deliverance is instantaneous; but rather gradually and progressively. Not every answer comes by praying once. There are prayers that require fervency, persistency and earnest. And since we don't know whether this one or that one will be answered once or not from the onset we keep on praying the prayer until we get the conviction or hear or see that it has been

answered. Many people ask many things in prayer and if queried the following day what the previous day prayer was about, I think only a few people will remember. This underscores lack of consistency. Inconsistency is also responsible for the wrong assumption or conclusion I mentioned earlier (i. e. concluding that a particular prayer request or point is not the will of God for an individual).

Looking at the scripture quoted above in context, there we see the Prophet Elijah's seven sessions of prayers where he prayed down rain after three and half year drought. That prayer was the will of God because the Lord did tell him to go and show himself to Ahab as He will send rain. Imagine if he had stopped after the third or sixth session and begin to doubt whether the Lord actually said he will send rain or perhaps he didn't hear well. But the Prophet didn't get discouraged but pressed on.

"Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to teach them that they should always pray and never become discouraged"(Luke 18:1 GNB)

The General Overseer of the Redeemed Christian Church of God Pastor Enoch Adejare Adebayo shared in the Open Heavens daily devotion how he prayed a particular prayer point for Fifteen (15) years before God answered. The prayer was that someday when he is ministering and wave his hands miracles should be happening. You see the secret of the powerful move of the Holy Spirit through the wave of hand of Daddy GO was consistency. You too must have read about Great Revivals in the past and you will attest that they often come by reason of persistent prayer of some devoted believers over a period of time.

It is not a ‘microwave’ prayer; no it is never a sharp-sharp prayer.

And shall not God avenge his own elect, **which cry day and night unto him** though he bear long with them” (Luke 18:7).

Having been helped by the Holy Spirit to sense a prayer that requires consistency in nature, I write them down on a paper and stick them on the chair or a surface in my prayer room or in a note and tuck inside my bible. This helps me to remember to pray them over and again.

You may as well do same or even maintain a prayer book. It will further help to be consistent in asking during prayers. It also help to see the timeline of answer to prayers that are prolonged and this can serve as an encouragement in future. Again it can help one to easily go back and recollect how or what led to a particular prayer request and see if the Lord has answer them or not. It might interest you to know that some prayers have been answered yet the person praying didn't know. This happens when the Lord chose to answer a prayer in a way higher and different from the way we thought he would answer them.

“For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts higher than your thoughts” (Isaiah 55:9).

Note: There are other several elements of prayers like fasting, quiet time, dedication; but for lack of space and time cannot be discuss in full here.

But I believe the two discussed above (i.e. Faith and Fervency) if worked upon will be of tremendous help to your prayer life.

CHAPTER THREE

VAIN REPETITION

"But when ye pray, use not **vain repetitions**, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. Be not ye therefore like unto them for your father knoweth what things you ye have need of, before ye ask him" Matthew 6:7-8

Let's break the word vain repetition into two parts to help us better understand it before we look at the context it was used from this scriptural passage.

What is repetition? Saying same word over and again. While on the other hand vain means something

meaningless or unnecessary. Vain repetition therefore means unnecessary reiterations.

Now looking at it scripturally, the heathen (term used for people who don't believe in the God of Israel) in their idol worshipping use to repeat or chant a particular word over and again so they could be heard. For example the worshippers of Baal in Israel make chants like they did when in a contest with Prophet Elijah to call down fire in the book of First Kings Chapter Eighteen. This they did from morning till evening without doing anything else.

Now in this Bible context, our Lord Jesus was using this heathen or pagan style of praying as an example to dissuade believers from repeating prayers of basic needs over and again as if they will be heard by this singular act. Remember the worshippers of Baal have not too many words in prayer but repetition.

So in effect, for believers what Jesus intended for us to learn is that vain repetition is in the content of our prayers and not in the amount of times prayer is been said.

What make a prayer vain repetition is the things you pray about.

This understanding has helped me not to buy into the lie of the enemy of not repeating prayers that are important. It will help you too. Please read with rapt concentration and follow closely.

“Take no thought for your life, what shall we eat or what shall we drink, nor yet for your body, what shall ye put on. Is not the life more than meat and the body than raiment” (Matthew 6:25)

The Lord Jesus gave an example of what can make prayer vain repetition. He said when you pray basic supply or needs as food, drink, cloth all the time then that is vain repetition because the Father already knows you have need for them.

Does that mean we should not pray for our basic needs, the answer is NO. Nevertheless such prayer should not dominate or take most of our prayer time. When or if they do we have slide into what our Lord Jesus call vain repetition.

So how do I pray for my needs, ask the Lord for them as the need arises per time. If you are in need of 5,000 Naira to pay a bill or rent today pray about it.

If you are in need of extra cloth or shoe tomorrow, pray about it and so on.

I pray about my needs as they come and I leave it there. I move on to other prayers like prayer of thanksgiving or worship, prayer of dedication, prayer of understanding of scriptures, prayer for strength to pray, prayer for yet-to-be-saved souls in my family and around, intercession for pastors and preachers of the gospel, prayer for peace in our Nation, prayer for persecuted Christians in Nigeria and around the World, Prayer for my children that as they grow they will know God, prayer for my wife...you see there are so many prayers outside my basic need.

The point is that, if you let your prayers center around your basic needs without praying other prayers as touching the Kingdom of God you have slide into vain repetition.

Now let me say this, it is not all the time that I pray for my need that I get answers in form of provision. Sometimes I endure not having those things. I just manage the little I have or endure not having them for a little while more (trusting God that He will provide since I

have told Him about those things in prayer) and keep on praying other prayers.

Consequently, those basic needs yet to be met sometimes start constituting a distraction to my other prayers for example money. So I pray on them again and leave them at the Master's feet again and move on again.

Yours might be a car, a job, money to start a business or even your children school fees because by extension these still falls under basic needs. I say to you leave them at the Master's feet.

However hard as it is, each time we come to God in prayer we must not make it an habit to always put our basic needs in front or let all the prayer centre around our needs. Reading the account of Matthew Six further, you will see when the Lord Jesus now said this are the things that the heathen (unbelievers) spend all their time praying about.

Therefore take no thought, saying what shall we eat? Or what shall we drink? Or wherewithal shall we be clothed? **[for after all these things do the Gentiles seek]**

for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things” (Matthew 6:31).

This is because unbelievers are not kingdom minded. They do not know that the kingdom of God is not limited to heaven but extends to everywhere His influence reaches or anywhere His will (righteousness) is permitted or allowed even here on earth. They are neither concerned about the kingdom of God nor what it requires of them. That’s why if you ask an average person about his or her goal in life, he or she will say I just want to be successful, rich, live happily and die in a good old age.

This is what make the difference between believers and unbelievers.

Again, this is the warning of our Lord Jesus even in the Lord ’s Prayer, He put ‘thy Kingdom come’ ahead of ‘give us our daily bread’. So it is not that the Lord is unmindful of our need for bread [needs i.e money, house, prosperity etc. In fact it is part of the promises he gave believers, see Matthew 19:29] rather all he is saying is, that is not all there is. He want us to come up on the

maturity ladder in our prayer life. ‘come up thither’ he says.

“Man shall not live by bread alone...” Matthew 4:4

Now let’s look at three scriptures to validate the position above as I do not wish to leave you - dear readers in doubt or confused.

i) Luke 18:1-8 Jesus encourage continuous prayer on a particular matter or a prayer point. He didn’t oppose it. He said in verse four...”And he would not for a while”. That tells us that God even as he depicts Himself like the judge might not answer for a while. Verse Seven now says ‘Shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them’. So praying on a matter again or continuous praying is not the same as vain repetition otherwise the Lord Jesus would not have encourage it in this scripture. You see why I said I do pray on my needs or request again when they are not yet met till they are met. Just that I pray other prayers along or at the same time especially those prayer that are kingdom based.

I remember sometime around end of January 2020 while driving around one of our Senior Pastor in the Province

(the APICP Admin) on a statutory visit to church parishes, the Pastor in Charge of Region, Pastor Dele Olowokere asked everyone present to make a request before the altar, so I asked God for a need- (a particular job). Then the Lord spoke to me clearly, ‘ask for anointing’ He said. So I immediately ask for anointing before the opportunity goes away. Afterwards I ponder on this experience in my mind and concluded the Lord is saying I know you need the job, this you will get in due time but Anointing is a rare commodity.

From that encounter I understood and learnt the importance of asking for weightier things in such an uncommon occasion.

‘And have omitted the weightier matters’....Matthew Chapter Twenty Three Verse Twenty Three.

For believers, the Lord expect us to put weightier matters in the front burner when we pray. It is also called the law of priority.

ii) 1Thessalonians 5:17 says “pray without ceasing”. Another scripture on the need to pray continuously. One mark of a prayerful person is the ability to pray without ceasing or be consistent with prayer.

Let me digress a little here, I have heard Christians say the Muslims pray more because they pray five times a day. This may be true for Christians who only pray in the morning and at bed times. If we follow the scripture (1Thessalonians 5:17) we ought to pray five multiply by five times a day to say the least. Prayerful Christians pray all day, non-stop! You pray on every issue that come your way, when you hear news of bad weather forecast on TV while in the office you say the kind of weather you would want to see, when you hear good news, you give thanks to God even while working on your computer. When a colleague is absent from work and had sent in a sick notice, you say a prayer of healing for him/her. When you are going to do some selling or marketing seated in the car you bow your head in prayer and ask the Lord for favour, what about covering your children in school with the blood of Jesus and your spouse at own office...the list is endless.

“Never stop praying” (1Thessalonians 5:17 NLT) that is what it means to be prayerful. Although there are times while you stay in prayers for hours, weeks without doing anything else but if you can’t stay in your prayer room or on a mountain all day praying, you can still be praying as

you journey through the day doing your regular activities.

Again the scripture above recommend praying as often as we breathe.

iii) Philippians 4:6 says “Be careful for nothing but in everything by prayer and supplications with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God”

That **‘be careful for nothing’** explains what Jesus meant by saying **‘take no thought’**. He is not saying you should not use your mind or reason things out but He is saying **don’t worry**. We know too much thinking leads to worry, anxiety, high blood pressure and the rest of them. So instead of taking thoughts (anxious or worry) about your needs just pray about them and leave them there even while you yet wait for answer. Why? Because your heavenly Father know you have need for them even before you ask.

Again the scripture is by **‘in everything by prayer’** saying; bring everything to the altar of prayer. Bring that difficult boss, the nagging wife, the womanizing husband, the teenager that won’t listen, those unkind in-laws etc. to prayer. Don’t worry about them but pray about them.

Wicked thoughts like retaliation or becoming uncaring will come to your mind if you take too much thought on how people have hurt you. Indeed if you will truly pray about everything, your prayer will be endless, it will be without ceasing.

From these three scripture and several other passages in the Bible we see that the Lord Jesus want us to pray continuously and if He does vain repetition cannot be an issue about frequency of prayer rather the content of prayer.

So then what should be first or dominate my prayer time instead, if my need should not?

“Instead be concerned above everything else with the Kingdom of God and with what he requires of you, and he will provide you with all these other things” (Matthew 6:33 GNB).

As I meditate on this scripture, The Holy Spirit gave me this analogy so I pen it down [It's like my son asked me for biscuit and I say go and do your home-work first. But instead of him doing his homework, he sits there and continues to ask me for biscuit. His continuous asking is vain repetition. I know as a child he needs biscuit and as

a matter of fact I have some at home already bought for him. But if after he has done his home-work and ask me again maybe because I forgot or got engaged in other things, I will quickly say oh, yes you can have some biscuit now]

Take note: His asking again after doing his home-work is not vain repetition but continuous praying.

CHAPTER FOUR

FAITH IN YOUR PRAYER

‘Who through **faith** subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouth of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens”
Hebrews 11: 33-34

“Yes, said Jesus, if you yourself can! Everything is possible for the person who has **faith**”
Mark 9:23 GNB

Whenever we pray, our faith must be fixed upon God; His almighty power and His faithfulness to us. Without this strong foundation of simple faith that He will hear

and answer our prayers, we might as well not bother to pray.

Without Faith it is impossible to please him...
Hebrews 11:6

Prayer just like the gospel of Jesus will not profit you without faith in your heart.

“For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them but the word preached **did not profit them**, not being mixed with **faith in them that heard it**. (Hebrews 4:2)

Many of us Christians pray but am convinced from feedbacks that not too many of us believe in our prayers. That is why in a prayer gathering some people will get answer to their requests and at the same time some people will go back the same.

The missing link in prayer most often is faith in the heart.

See what Jesus said concerning prayer and believe (faith);

“And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall have them” (Matthew 21:22).

From that scripture, we can see that “Believing” is in the middle of **prayer** and **having**, it thus serves as a link or bridge. So when the bridge is broken or missing there will be no flow or access.

Faith in prayer is simply the degree of your propensity and or ability to confidently trust in God and in His power over every prayer request.

While some believe at the time of prayer but immediately after prayer the faith evaporates and they return to worry or taking anxious steps. Am not talking about taking a step of faith in a certain direction based on leading received after prayer, but rather talking about people who don’t even wait to get any revelation or divine direction.

Daddy G.O in a sermon preached on 24th May 2020 said once you have prayed leave it there. Once you have cast your burden upon the Lord in prayers leave it there. He said further that the answer to Daniel’s prayer got delayed for 21days but it still came anyway. (Daniel 9:3&25)

Let me add a little to what Daddy said, Daniel didn't run around when the answer was yet to come, he just persisted in prayer. He pressed on. He kept on praying.

But some of us run from one prayer house to another, one mountain to another busy looking for another prophet yet the problem is not solve.

Jesus said when you have prayed, believe that you have received answers to your prayers then you will receive answer.

So not until we believe, answer won't come. Occasionally it is someone else's faith that helps us get answer. Like a prayer partner or pastor. But we have to recognize our shortcoming and seek to develop own faith. **This is the emphasis of this chapter.**

"The just shall live by **his** faith" (Habakkuk 2:4)

The Lord's disciples had one time asked Jesus to increase their faith. So we too can turn it into a prayer point as we consistently make deliberate effort to read our bible. Remember faith cometh by hearing the Word of God.

Let me take us to the next level on the subject of discuss
 - *Faith in your Prayer* which is **walking in faith**

You see, believing that God can do all things is good but not enough because even demons believe.

“thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble” (James 2:19)

But it is imperative that we don’t only believe but we walk and act according to our belief. This can be in two forms:

One - Walking in faith could mean taking a step of faith, following a leading of the Spirit in a direction that cannot be explained or reasoned out with our mental faculty but at the end the path will deliver our testimony and answer to our prayers. The answer to prayers is often coded inside steps of faith.

A song says:

Am not moved by what I see, Halleluyah!
Am not moved by what I hear, Halleluyah!!
But am moved by the Word of God Hallelluyah!!!

Two - Walking in faith could mean not taking actions that undermine the trust we have in God or contrary to the expectations of our prayers. In fact this is where some miss it. You know the popular saying ‘heaven help those who help themselves’, please be careful with the way you apply it. I hope you know it is not written anywhere in the bible!

I have struggled at this point myself on several occasions. I mean after confessing faith in prayers and declaring God’s word over a situation I see myself doing what I call ‘self-help’ as if I have not prayed at all or as if God might not answer. This action is capable of robbing one of his prayer testimonies.

Let me share two experiences that will help us to understand this point;

i) In a night dream I saw a sister in my local assembly - RCCG Revelation Sanctuary crying over the loss of her mother. She is a fellow worker in the vineyard so I could approach her with a certain level of ease. The next time we saw in church I asked about her mum, she said she’s fine, but after probing further she said her mother is actually about going for a fibroid operation, I perceive

that's what the Lord is warning about with the dream because the surgery will or might lead to death. We prayed together for her mum, then I told her to tell the mum not to go for that surgery at that point in time while we believe God for healing. She told her and at another church service she called the mother and gave me the phone to speak to her, I explain what the Lord has shown unto me concerning her myself. We prayed and she expressed faith in the prayers. Then I respectfully persuade her not to go for the surgery at that time but wait for some time and let's see what the Lord will do. She accepted and didn't go for the surgery! Thank God. Some weeks later the sister shared the good news: her mother went to the toilet one day and she defecate out the fibroid in the water closet! Hallelujah! Glory be to God.

ii) A friend to my wife in another country had shared in a *WhatsApp* group about her two daughters seriously sick in the hospital. She was touched and asked me to pray for her friend. After bringing this matter before the Lord in prayers early morning the next day, He graciously spoke to me and said "tell that woman not to be in a hurry to make a move she is about to make". After my

wife gave her the message she request to speak with me. We got talking and she said it is true, 'am about getting my children transferred to another hospital outside my current state because their case is not really improving here and again I feel the doctors are not doing enough'. So I said to her stop the move since the Lord has spoken against it. Let's trust Him for healing at the current hospital. She said okay, we prayed together over the phone and I continued praying. I remember sharing the prayer burden with my Zonal Pastor - Pastor Olayemi Paul so as to get a higher Anointing agree with me on the case because the sickness was so serious that medical experts in a London Hospital were struggling to handle it.

Not long she called and said the transfer papers are out, that she has gone far in the process and has made up her mind to go ahead with the move. I persuaded her not to take this move, ask her to connect me with her husband to see if that will help. She eventually did and missed a cheap way of getting divine healing at that point in time. The experience of the new hospital was not a good one, it was only by the mercies of God that she didn't lose both children as one of them died.

After praying in faith, we have to ensure we walk in faith. One might be pressured to take a move especially when the waiting is long and the situation becomes unpleasant but we have to resist the urge. It is called **fight of faith** and we have to fight it, peradventure this applies to you don't feel too bad, you can simply ask the Lord to forgive you right now and ask for grace to retrace your steps. This is necessary because a move outside faith even if it succeeds won't bless us, there will always be a 'but' or regret at the end of it.

In the first case God wanted to heal the Sister's mum without the input of any doctor and He did, He did it in an unthinkable way. Her 'walking in faith' was the decision to put the surgery on hold while prayer was going on. Please note the healing didn't come immediately she abandoned the surgery. It took weeks of patience and continuous praying but it came. Notwithstanding the delay, you will agree with me that her healing is better than the surgery that would have led to her death.

In the second however the Lord wanted to heal the children with the help of doctors but in that particular hospital. Her own 'walking in faith' was not to leave that

hospital because the Lord said so. **This obedience to the divine instruction would have committed God to healing the children.** Only God knows why He wanted them to remain with the same set of doctors because it is hard for a mother to remain in that hospital with her children. I mean you and I would want to seek better care for our loved ones at any cost even going abroad if in a hospital where their condition is not improving. The Lord will help you and me to walk in faith after praying in Jesus name. Howbeit Faith is central to receiving answers to our prayers.

Faith can be in levels, we will discuss that shortly. As we continue to pray and exercise our faith there is growth. The Faith that raised the dead began with faith that healed headache. If you must pray for a cancer patient and have faith in your prayers, you must have prayed for someone who had malaria. So not until our faith in prayers is exercised there won't be growth and God will be limited in doing something glorious through us, not for lack of power from the Almighty but for our little faith. There is no growth at the level of comfort and there is no comfort at the level of growth. So let us not get comfortable with the level we are now.

From scriptural events we can see three (3) levels of faith;

First - Jesus called people who did not use their faith faithless “Then Jesus answered and said, **O faithless** and perverse generation how long shall I be with you? How long shall I suffer you? bring him hither to me” (Matthew 7:7)

Second - He spoke of those with little faith...”And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand and caught him and said unto him, **O thou of little faith**, wherefore didst thou doubt” (Matthew 14:31)

Third - And of those with great faith...”Then Jesus answered and said unto her, **O woman great is thy faith**: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour” (Matthew 15:28).

This reveal to us that, every one that believe in Jesus Christ (believer) have a certain measure of faith which is given as a gift of God (Romans 12:3), it is through faith that you are saved (Ephesians 2:8). It is as a seed planted in us when we became born again. (1Peter 1:23)

Faith that effects change, unwavering and receives answers to prayer however need to be developed by feeding on the Word of God. Faith comes from hearing the Word of God. Abraham the 'father of faith' heard God and that was what kept him going. You and I can hear God speak to us audibly like Abraham in addition. We must hear God constantly for our faith to grow.

"Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God" (Romans 10:17).

You cannot be a man or woman of prayer without regularly feeding on the scriptures. The more understanding of God's Word you have on the inside of you the more your prayer life will bear result. The knowledge of God gives us weight in the realm of the spirit and if we are weighty our prayers will also carry weight.

Prayer is not by shouting neither is it by just expending energy but by Faith derived from the Word of God.

One great secret of prayer that bear result is faith

CHAPTER FIVE

FASTING AND PRAYER

They said to Him, “John’s disciples and those of the Pharisees **frequently fast and pray** but yours keep on eating and drinking”

Jesus replied, “can you make the guests of the bridegroom fast while He is with them?”

But the time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them and **they will fast**”
Luke 5:33-35

And he said unto them, this kind can come forth by nothing but by **prayer and fasting**.
Mark 9:29

God created food for man's consumption. Then God said, "Behold I have given you every seed-bearing plant on the face of all the earth and every tree whose fruit contains seed. **They will be yours for food**" (Genesis 1:29)

The Almighty designed our body and has full knowledge of our metabolism (i.e. catabolism –the breakdown of molecules to obtain energy from food intake and anabolism – the synthesis of all compound needed by the body cells). No man can stay without food for a very long time else such a fellow will die and this will amount to suicide which is a sin before the Almighty God. God told Elijah to eat very well for the journey ahead is far (1Kings 19:7). That tells us that God is even mindful of the amount of food we need on each journey, on daily basis and so on.

So God is very careful and do not want us to die of hunger through fasting.

So why then does the Lord expect and command us to fast?

Jesus told the Pharisees that in that day when the bridegroom is taken away then his disciples (believers) will fast. He was taken away through death on the cross, hence now is the time He was saying we will fast.

The first reason is because the Lord knows that because of the exigency of our bodily need for food there's a tendency that we might rely on food alone to live.

And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not neither did thy fathers know, **that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only** but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the Lord doth man live. (Deuteronomy 8:3)

The implication of this is that even though we are living in this body, we are also, as a matter of fact first and foremost spiritual being so if we pay attention to feeding the body alone our spirit man which is vital will starve.

Secondly the Lord knows that our enemy the devil can

use the need for food to lure us into sin so he wants us to have control over this need.

In Matthew 4:3 that was the very first temptation the devil brought before Jesus when he was in his human form. He told him to turn stone to bread and eat since he was hungry. That statement can be liken to the devil saying to a pastor, use your anointing to extort money from unsuspecting members since you are in need or steal from your office before they pay salary because you are broke and there's no food at home. So Jesus resisted despite been very hungry as he had fasted for 40 days. He responded saying “it is written man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God” (Matthew 4:4)

So when you and I fast we are simply saying I am not living by food alone for the duration of the fasting.

So fasting essentially activates the word of God in our lives at the same time give us control over the flesh. That half day fast, a day fast, three days fast and so on gives energy to our spirit man. We will eventually eat after the fasting is over so we are not going to die. But what you and I have gained by that fasting has huge spiritual

implications.

This spiritual energy is very important to our prayer lives. That is why fasting and prayer are like Siamese twins, very difficult to separate. If you remove fasting completely from prayer, you make prayer weak. There are dimensions of result to prayer that is exclusive to combination of fasting and prayer and there are no alternative to it.

”Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting”. (Matthew 17:21)

Of all the powerful spiritual weapons God has given to His people, the most neglected and often forgotten spiritual weapon is fasting - Morris Cerullo.

Bishop David Oyedepo had shared this experience. He said during the early times of Living Faith Church in Kaduna. He said it appeared as though the growth of the church was crawling. So he embarked on fasting and prayer. Then on the third day while praying with other brethren the Holy Spirit led him to go to an open space and showed him a dark cloud like a veil over the church and said this is the reason why the church is not growing.

This is the power manipulating or misrepresenting what you are doing in the church. He was asked to command the dark cloud to go away, he did and like a carpet it rolled away. It was not long after this experience that the church started growing tremendously.

Inspiration of how and what to write in this book often come after I have fasted and prayed. At many times I will get stuck not knowing how to make progress. For example this particular chapter was sounding in my mind as if someone was reading it out to me early in the morning after I have just ended a two-day dry fast.

“But there is a spirit in man, and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding” (Job 32:8).

As we approach this end time, there will be more and more battles, violence and killings, perversions, unimaginable attack against the kingdom of God and everywhere it extends to whether in our personal lives as believers or collectively in our nations and the only way to conquer and make real progress spiritually which will then manifest physically is through regular fasting and prayer.

Finally, your body will get use to fasting over time. So don't be alarmed if it appears too burdensome at the start. Take it gradually, break by 12noon today. Next time wait till 3pm and like that, you get used to it.

By the way, being busy and unable to have breakfast till noon is not fasting, because God sees through our hearts and know our motives. But when we have food and have time to eat yet we consciously set our mind to fast, God takes note of this self-denial. The Holy Spirit reminds us to be praying along the way. God replace our human weakness with spiritual strength. That's why you see that you suddenly find inner strength to resist temptation to lie, cheat, gossip and so on. Your prayer becomes more powerful because the flesh has been removed and subdued then you hear God clearer, your vision becomes sharper. Dear reader, I charge you to refuse to be blunt!

“If iron be blunt and he do not whet the edge, then must he put to more strength, but wisdom is profitable to direct” (Ecclesiastes 10:10)

CHAPTER SIX

INTERCESSORS AS ADVOCATE

“Who then is the one who condemns? No one, Christ Jesus who died more than that, who was raised to life is at the right hand of God and is also **interceding** for us”
Romans 8:34

“Therefore pray not thou for this people neither lift up cry nor pray for them, neither make **intercession** to me, for I will not hear thee” Jeremiah 7:16

“Then the Lord said to me, ‘Even though Moses and Samuel were to stand before me [**interceding for them**], my heart would still not be [turned with favour] towards this people [Judah]. Send them away from my presence and out of my sight and let them go” Jeremiah 15:1 AMP

“And I hear a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God and the power of Christ: **for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night**” Revelation 12:10

I am persuaded the enemy (the devil) cannot just afflict a child or people of God anytime he feels like. He has to first go and obtain judgement before the throne of God. He will go with evidence of sin as exhibits to win his case and if his case is weighty enough and there are no intercessor(s) for that particular fellow or family or nation then God rules in his favour. I'm so convinced for the following reasons:

One: Looking at the story in the book of Job. The devil had been ‘considering’ Job for an attack or assault. ‘Has thou considered my servant Job’, God asked. The devil didn’t deny eyeing Job but said ‘has thou not made an

hedge about him'. The scripture in 1 Peter 5:8 confirms this, "...your adversary the devil as a roaring lion walketh about seeking him whom he may devour". The Bible didn't say he goes about afflicting but he goes about **seeking** who will give him the occasion—who will break his own hedge so he can bite.

The way he does it is through temptation. That's the bait. The Bible even says, we can resist the devil (his temptation) and he will flee from us. He flees for a little while and come again to tempt. And peradventure one falls for his temptation he uses the 'fall' as evidence of sin before the Judge.

If the devil is as powerful as we sometimes out of ignorance portray him, he would have just gone ahead and afflict Job, but no, he couldn't until the Lord permitted, until God gave a go-ahead.

"And he said, Hear thou therefore the word of the LORD: **I saw the Lord sitting on his throne** and all the host of heaven standing by him on his right hand and on his left". "And there came forth a spirit and stood before the Lord and said I will persuade him" (1King 22:19&21)

“How will you do this? The Lord asked. And the spirit replied, I will go out and inspire all of Ahab’s prophet to speak lies. “you will succeed, saith the Lord. **Go ahead and do it**”. (1Kings 22:22 NLT)

Micaiah (the prophet of God) in above scriptures saw the revelation of what transpired before the throne of God concerning the event that led to the death of King Ahab gives us a closer insight. Here God literally gave a go-ahead for King Ahab to be dealt with because there’s a huge evidence of sin against him—his cup was full.

In the New Testament, this same scenario was recorded for our learning and understanding. Jesus openly told His disciples that satan had asked for and has been given permission to test and try them.

“Simon, Simon! Listen! Satan has received permission to test all of you, to separate the good from the bad, as a farmer separates the wheat from the chaff. (Luke 22:31 GNB).

Jesus in the next verse now said "But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith will not fail. And when you turn back to me, you must strengthen your brothers"

Christians let's stop glorifying the devil as if we [children of God] are at his mercy and can kill us anytime like chicken. No, no, no, it is not so.

Two: accusation or sin as exhibit must be present or available. The exhibit was the state of mind of Job. 'Then satan answered the Lord and said, doth Job fear God for nought' in order words, Job was accused of eye-service, Mr. know-it-all, insincerity towards the faithfulness of God. Job later admitted he was guilty and pleaded for forgiveness. (Job 40:4-5, 42:3)

For Simon Peter in the scripture we saw earlier, the exhibit was also his state of mind (unfaithfulness). Even though he had said with his mouth by promising not to deny Jesus we saw he eventually did. Worse still he would later abandon 'his calling' and return to his fishing business.

No wonder the Psalmist in Chapter Nineteen and verse fourteen said "Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer."

Jesus after resurrection appeared to Peter and put these words to him "So when they had dined, Jesus saith to

Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs” John 21:15

This the Lord did in addition to the prayers he had prayed for him before his crucifixion.

Joshua the high priest was also accused: “Then the guiding angel showed me Joshua the high priest [representing disobedience, sinful Israel] standing before the angel of the Lord and Satan standing at Joshua’s right hand to be his adversary and accuse him” (Zachariah 3:1 AMP). There was disobedience (evidence of sin) among the children of Israel.

You and I are being accused too day and night but for the blood of Jesus that speak better things for us.

Who then is an advocate?

Simply put a lawyer. Have you ever watch a court session before? Oh, yes I have, on Africa Magic Channel...laughs. I have seen how lawyers take turn to argue in favour and

plead for their clients. As the case progress you can tell which direction victory will likely go. How are you and I able to tell? On the strength of the lawyer's defence of course. Have you not seen a murder case that went in favour of the accused because he has a good team of lawyers?

When Jesus advocates for you, even if your sin is as red as a scarlet the Bible says they will become as white as snow.

Now juxtapose this court room scenario with the court room of heaven where the Almighty God seats on the throne as the judge of the world. Before him is Jesus His only begotten son.

“And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous” (1John 2:1). Jesus is always present—He is pleading before the Judge - God to remember His innocent blood shed for the sins of mankind.

“And he is the propitiation for our sins and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world” (1John 2:2). You see why the world seems to be getting away

with sin: killings, homosexuality, abortion, prostitution daily.

Oh, how precious is the blood of Jesus! How wonderful is Jesus our great intercessor!!

Long before Jesus [and thereafter the Holy Spirit] was revealed as our intercessor or advocate sitting on the right hand of God the Father, he existed from the beginning (John 1:1-3) i.e. before Christ came into this world as a child, died and shed his innocent blood for Mankind.

God did use and is still using men and women to do the job of intercession on earth. Right from the times of the prophets of old and up until now the Lord seeks for intercessors who will team up with Jesus through the help of the Holy Spirit and form a legal counsel in the realm of the spirit.

“And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land that I should not destroy it but I found none” (Ezekiel 22:30)

“I exhort therefore, that first of all, supplications, prayers, **intercessions** and giving of thanks **be made for all men**” (1Timothy 2:1).

All men need intercessor, all families need intercessor, all churches need intercessor; all nations need intercessor.

Apostle Paul often asks for God’s people to pray for him.

“I urge you believers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to together with me in your prayers to God in my behalf” (Romans 15: 30). Also see 2 Corinthians 1:11, Ephesians 6:19, Philippians 1:19.

Having intercessors plead our case in prayer outwit the barrage of accusation of the devil against us before God who is the Judge. Intercessors turn away the wrath of God against a people. This is a Biblical fact!

In doing this, firstly number counts i.e. number of people interceding. [Peradventure ten shall be found there. **‘And he said I will not destroy for ten’s sake’**]. The Lord was willing to spare Sodom and Gomorrah because of ten righteous people but won’t accept a lesser number (Gen 18:32). This ten righteous people is synonymous

with intercessors. We can compare this to a good number of lawyers in a defence team arguing with one single lawyer in the other team.

Secondly right standing or devotional life of the people praying is important [**‘the Lord is far from the wicked but he listens to the prayer of the righteous’** Proverbs 15:29]. There are people God will listen to and there are people who He won’t listen to. While Jeremiah was interceding for the land, the Lord gave example of Moses and Samuel as intercessors he listens to with special attention (Jeremiah 15:1), on the other hand someone living in disobedience and unwilling to repent if he intercedes will not be heard by God. Not by favoritism but by individual’s **work** we can become close and special to God that he listens to us. We can compare this with a Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN) and a lawyer fresh from law school against each other in a court room. The presiding judge will listen to a SAN with respect because of his **‘work’** (experience)

Finally and worthy of note is the fact that although intercessors turn away the wrath of God from people, this is merely **temporal**. Only genuine repentance can turn away the wrath of God **permanently**. Please read

the book of Jonah and Nahum for more information and understanding on this point. You may share what you learn after reading these books in the scripture with me for further discussion through my email.

CHAPTER SEVEN

THE MINISTRY OF PRAYER

“We ourselves, then, will give our **full time to prayer** and the work of preaching.” Acts 6:4 GNB

“And she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple but **served God with fastings and prayers** night and day. Luke 2:37

In Christianity, ministry is an activity carried out by Christians to express or spread their faith; the prototype being the Great Commission. In another word it is carrying forth Christ’s mission in the world.

The word ministry is not all about been a pastor or employed in a church setting as widely construed; it is first and foremost a service that is rendered to glorify God. It could be borne out of a gift or natural ability; in another case it could be out of passion or area of interest and lastly it could be out of divine calling (in this case, one is called into a specific assignment without prior experience expertise).

Your ministry is your service or work for the Lord. It is first personal then spreads out. It could be in the area of writing Christian literature or tracts, giving out or sharing of Bible, ushering in church service or in Christian gatherings, singing in a Choir group or recoding songs as in Gospel artist , drumming or playing other musical instrument to glorify God, counselling, preaching, teaching the Word of God to younger generation, follow-up of new converts, giving of alms or caring for the needy, praying, social media evangelism, outreach, sharing of tracts, organizing a group of believers, role modelling, hospital and prison visiting and so on.

It is our work that validates our faith. That is why James 2:26 says "faith without work is dead". In other words your Christianity is questionable if you don't have work.

Even though we are not saved by works but by grace, we must all have works to confirm our faith after we have been saved. Since faith is invisible, our work been visible gives it a face thereby validating that our faith is genuine and alive.

Rick Warren in his famous book *the purpose driven life* said and I quote “Regardless of your job or career, you are called to full-time Christian service. A ‘non-serving Christian’ is a contradiction in terms”

I remember a testimony of my one-time Sunday School Teacher – Bro Esan Abayomi that he shared sometime in early part of year 2013. He said, he used to be very active for the Lord back in his campus days. But soon after he left school he stopped doing any work but remain a genuine Christian. So one day he ran into a school mate who knew his ‘work’ on campus and the fellow asked him, what are you doing for the Lord now? I can imagine you must be pastoring a church by now. He said that question sank into him deeply and he thought about it for many days. Then after many days the Lord spoke to him and said that miracle you are believing me for is tied to your work for me. He said he was shocked to learn that the Lord is taking note of his ‘non-working’

even though he wasn't living in sin or anything of sort. To the glory of God not long that he started teaching in the Sunday school, the testimony came forth.

The Apostles of old identified prayer as a ministry, a work, an aspect of Christian service and gave it their full attention.

“We ourselves, then, will give our **full time to prayer** and the work of preaching” (Acts 6:4 GNB).

What does Ministry of Prayer Entail?

The Ministry of prayer is not for people who need prayers because of one challenge or another they might be passing through. Though that can be the entry point or initial motive into the ministry; but what happens when the challenge is over? Do you quit the prayer band?

The ministry of prayer requires dedication, people who will be praying consistently for the need of others, the church or the nation.

Just like a chorister sings all the time in a church service, persons in ministry of prayer pray for every church service. Remember the chorister spends quality time rehearsing in preparation for the ministration, so also persons in prayer ministry spends time praying in preparation of a glorious and mighty service.

“So Jotham became **mighty** because he **prepared** his way before the Lord his God” (2Chronicles 27:6)

To the glory of God I have been and still a part of the ‘prayer room’ at the Redemption Camp on more than one occasion where prayer warriors pray daily 24hours non-stop (taking shifts) during annual programs pleading before God for a glorious service.

A story was once shared of a Pastor who usually witness multitudes of miracles in the church service. After a long time the miracles reduced drastically and he became worried. He decided to go on fasting and prayer to ask God for help. Then the Lord spoke to this pastor, He said remember that old woman that passed on recently in your church, the pastor said yes Lord I know her. The Lord said she is a prayer warrior, she spends hours on her knees praying for every church service and that’s

why you see those miracles, but since she's now with me in heaven and no one is filling that vacuum, the miracles just have to be reducing. Quickly go raise a prayer team that will be doing her job before the fire is put out completely.

The Ministry of prayer offers anyone who will be committed to it a great reward. There's a difference between 'answer to prayer' and 'reward of prayer'

Answer to Prayer

When you have a need and bring it to the Lord in prayer, you expect to get an answer. For example your child is seriously sick and at the point of death. You phone your pastor and other loved ones to join you pray while the doctors battle to save the life of your child. At the end the child's life is preserved and you are joyful. What you have receive is answer to prayer.

Reward of Prayer

This is the lot of people in prayer ministry. The Lord himself rewards prayer warriors beyond their asking. While answer to prayer is determined even before prayer is been said (I mean you know what you want

God to do for you when you present a prayer request), but the reward of prayer is not known. This is simply because the prayer warrior often lay aside his own prayer request to pray for others as if he/she does not have a need. They do not spend all their prayer time on personal need, but the Lord who knows where the shoe pinches, prepare and move ahead to give them much more than they could have spent all their prayer time on.

“But as it is written, eyes have not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of men, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him” (1Corinthians 2:9).

I have a testimony of good health since I have join the ministry of prayer. I use to treat malaria often, I mean very often. If I'm to travel outside Ibadan, South West Nigeria while growing up hardly will I not use malaria drug. This continued even after I moved to Kaduna, North West Nigeria in 2005 as a corp member (NYSC). But for some reason not unconnected to prayer activities I have not used malaria drug, even paracetamol for a light headache for several years now even when I travel for long hours within and outside the country. I can't

remember making it a prayer point but the Lord moves ahead and took sickness far from me.

I encourage you to join the prayer band in your Local Assembly, it's a ministry that will help you to grow very well with a solid foundation as far as your Christian journey is concerned. There's hardly any great man or woman of God whom the Lord has used tremendously either dead or alive that is not rooted in prayer or prepared in the place of prayer.

Lastly, I want you to remember that the stage is not for preparation, it is for action.

When the light is focused on you at your appointed time, then it is time for action. Now is time to prepare.

Are you preparing yourself in the secret place of prayer?

CHAPTER EIGHT

PRAYERFUL MEN AND WOMEN

“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, all power is given me in heaven and in earth” Matthew 28:18

Prayerful simply means to be full of prayer. It is not same as powerful. The Lord Jesus is the only One full of power. (Matthew 28:18)

God's got offers for every one of us but we have to accept and receive the offer before we can enjoy it. The offers are His promises in the Scriptures.

"As many as **receive** him, to them gave he power to become sons of God" (John 1:12).

When a man or woman received this offer he/she becomes a part or member of the Kingdom of God. The entry point into becoming a part of the Kingdom of God which qualifies you to experience or enjoy the benefits of the Kingdom is by been born again. "Except a man be born again he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3). The bible says "for we do not know how we ought to pray" except we are helped by the Holy Spirit. This help amongst many benefits of the Kingdom is one reason why you have to be born again. In other words no matter how hard you try, you cannot be a prayerful man or woman if you don't first surrender your life to Jesus and get baptized in the Holy Ghost. Why not accept Jesus right away?

If you are saying yes, please say these prayers now:

Lord Jesus I acknowledge I am a sinner, please forgive me of all my sins and wash me in your precious blood. Give

me grace to live a righteous life from now onward till I see you in glory. Thank you for saving me. Thank God I'm born again. Please find a Bible believing Church near you and fellowship with other brethren regularly. This will help this decision you just made get rooted and then you begin to grow in faith.

Prayerful men and women know how to go to God to collect what he has promised - good health, prosperity, salvation, restoration, anointing and so on. They show God they are serious through their prayers and want what he has promised.

Positive thinking and Prayers are not the same. For example if you are in a difficult situation and the Lord is seeing your predicament until you pray solution might not come. One can stay positive or hopeful maybe after reading motivational books yet answer does not come. However Prayer naturally will produce hope in you when faced with difficult situation.

John Wesley said and I quote 'it seems God is limited by our prayer life-that he can do nothing for humanity unless someone ask'.

As children of God we naturally desire to be blessed materially by the Lord, some desire He use them greatly for His work, some desire to be heavily anointed but not all are willing to pray in equal proportion to these desires. Some totally rely on other people to pray for them. While some are too busy to pray, some are not willing to seek the Lord **diligently** in prayer whereas Bible says the Lord is a rewarder of those that **diligently** seek him. If we ask enough we will have enough of whatever God has in stock for us. Asking in prayer precedes receiving.

“...yet ye have not because ye ask not” (James 4:3), “

“Hitherto have ye ask nothing in my name, ask and ye shall receive that your joy may be full” (John 16:24)

So it's not that prayerful men and women have power of their own to make things happen rather they have this knowledge and information and are willing to take desires, requests, petitions to God in prayer and will not discontinue until an answer is gotten (diligent). They might rest for a while but their eyes are never taken away from God as far as answers to those requests are concerned. Elijah is a classic example of a prayerful man.

Notable is the prayer to shut up heaven from raining among his prayers.

But do you know that that request was not just conceive by Elijah out of anger for the sins of King Ahab? Yes the man of God was visibly not happy with the sins in the land but he could have asked God for another punishment against the land. The request was thought ahead by Moses and King Solomon “when the heaven is shut up and there is no rain...because they have sinned against thee” (2 Chronicles 6:26). I am convinced Elijah must have read the book of the law and found that there is a possibility of heaven been shut without rain if the people sinned and he turned it to a Prayer, decreeing that there will be no rain and since the request is found in the Scripture and the condition of sin has been met, God honored it.

It might interest you to know again that when the rain was going to be restored again, it was not Elijah’s sole desire. “And it came to pass after many days, that the Word of the Lord came to Elijah in the third year, saying, Go show thyself unto Ahab, **and I will send rain upon the earth**” (1 Kings 18:1). Elijah would not be bothered with the length of the drought in the land because he didn’t

give a time frame for how long the drought will last, he only put a condition which is “by my word” that is until I say otherwise. It was later we read the drought had lasted for three and a half year. But there are righteous or innocent people in the land suffering from the sin of the King and had been crying to God to have mercy and send rain. Remember the seven thousand people that had not bow down to Baal the Lord spoke about? (1 Kings 19:18). If the Lord took note of their actions you will agree with me that He will equally answer their prayers if they prayed for rain to come in the land. So the Lord was the one who was ready to end the drought in effect.

Now look closely at this, since God had told Elijah that He will send rain, I thought he only needs to speak the word and then go show himself to the King and rain will start falling, why did Elijah have to pray those rigorous seven sessions of prayer with his head between his knees?

This is the point I'm trying to bring out, that what distinguish prayerful men and women from others is that they take hold of God's word, promises and diligently

pray it to manifestation. Their power lies really in the information and knowledge of God's Word.

We can look at Daniel in this light too. How powerful will you describe this man Daniel who single-handedly prayed Israel out of Babylonia captivity? Very powerful one will say! But do you know his prayer was based upon the information he found in the scriptures, while others in captivities were busy doing other things, Daniel was studying and found documented prophecies of the Prophet Jeremiah (Daniel 9:2). By the Spirit of God, Jeremiah had prophesied that the captivity will only last 70 years (Jeremiah 29:10). Coincidentally but divinely orchestrated that was about the same time Daniel saw what was written.

Daniel started fasting and praying continuously until the answer came.

Mind you Daniel was not a prophet neither was he a priest at that time as a matter of fact if you call him a civil servant you won't be wrong at all. So being a prayerful man or woman doesn't have to do with being a pastor or a prophet. It starts with information; you have to have information of what the Word of God is saying

on a particular situation. What Daniel found in the scripture was not a hidden thing at all. Anyone who studies the scripture as written of the prophets that time would have seen same.

Today the Holy Spirit even helps us to remember the right scriptures to apply to situations. I remember an experience in this line; we were in the house fellowship one Sunday evening sometime in 2013 at Pastor Seun Ojo's residence. There, a sister raised a prayer request for favour as she goes for a job interview the next day (Monday) and we all began to pray. Suddenly the Holy Spirit reminded me of a scripture I had memorized not long ago – Isaiah 55:10&11 and He said say those scriptures right now. So I did and we all left. The following year 2014 I saw this sister at a funeral ceremony in Romi and He reminded me again to ask her if she got the job that day. Expectedly I had forgotten completely about what transpired in the House Fellowship the previous year. So I approach her and inquire as led, she said yes, thank you I got the job. Glory be to God.

Another mark of prayerful men and women is that they are willing to spend time in prayer. Prayer is labour—a

hard labour for that matter. But it is a worthwhile labour considering the quantum result it can produce if done upon the foundation of the Word of God.

“In all labour there is profit, but the talk of the lips tendeth only to penury” [Job 14:23]

Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ spent a lot of time praying. One would have expect him to pray casually because of who He is but no He often prayed all night, all day, sometimes with crying so much that the sweat falling down from his face were like blood. Imagine!

On a lighter note, one of my fathers in Prayer ministry- Pastor Simba Abubakar use to say ‘if you are praying and you are not sweating find water and pour on yourself’. Laughs... of course, It’s just a joke but I guess it is to buttress the fact that prayer is work and one mark of a prayerful man or woman is that he/she is willing, available to labour in the place of prayer. As you progress you will find out that Prayer is time and energy consuming however you will be happy you did when you look back.

Thirdly, prayerful men and women are courageous people. You will find them engaging prayer on matters

that are obviously hopeless by human standards most of the time. God will begin to pour the spirit of courage in you by bringing your way extremely hopeless situations once you set out to be a man or woman of prayer.

In Ezekiel 37, the story of the dry bones, God used that encounter to teach us courage in the face of complete hopelessness. God already knew what He wanted to do before asking the prophet Ezekiel. You will be tested often. You will have to pray on cases that doctors have written off, and yet the Lord will be watching you, to see whether there is faith in your heart or not before He moves.

My wife was going to have a miscarriage at a time. Blood was already coming out. As soon as she called my attention to it I ran to pick anointed handkerchief prayed on by Daddy GO and laid it on her. Again I led her to my prayer room and began to pray. Ironically we had lost a pregnancy two years earlier about the same month. At the previous time we rushed to the hospital but nothing could be done to save the baby. So this time around even though there is still space and time to rush to the hospital but we chose to pray. To the glory of God in the course of our praying the blood stopped without any

medical personnel, Doctor JESUS healed her right there and then. Today that pregnancy is a bouncing baby boy growing daily in grace and wisdom of the Lord.

My point is that you will have to be courageous to pray in the face of imminent danger. Ordinarily you will be expected to make haste and run around, make frantic phone calls for help even though these are not wrong in itself but they are the very things the Lord uses to build courage in prayerful men and woman so that when another bigger matter shows up, the next thing in mind will be let us pray.

I mean can you imagine Daddy GO told the Vice President - Prof Yemi Osibanjo 'let us pray' when he casually told him his international passport has gone missing. The Vice President said it openly that he had thought within himself that there's no need to pray on the lost item. To God be the glory, after Daddy prayed the Passport was found.

God told Joshua as he was assuming the position of an intercessor for the Children of Israel after the death of Moses- the servant of the Lord, to be courageous three times. (Joshua 1:6, 7&9).

Been courageous is an expectation of God for men and women of prayer however He doesn't leave us alone to do it all by ourselves but provide the spirit to help our faint-heartedness. We just need to cooperate with Him.

On a final note, all children of God are expected to be men and women of prayer. Jesus our perfect example started and ended with prayer. He showed us diligence in prayer. Jesus was prayerful to the core while on earth. Let us strive to emulate His prayer life.

The three point discussed here are just personal experiences I thought worth sharing not a pattern or format cast in stone. I mean the Lord may choose to give each and every one of us different experiences.

Please go to the Lord in prayer, ask Him to pour in you the spirit of prayer. Don't forget you have a part to play which is diligence!

Notes

[illegible]

Books by the Author

1. The Cost of Obedience
2. My School of Prayer

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This book is provided to you both in print and e-book FREE. Please feel free to share so more people can be blessed.

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