

Prayer

by

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or Lessons On Prayer

First Edition

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Prayer is essential in the life of every Christian. Without prayer, we wither on the vine, and lose our protection and strength. For apart from Jesus, we are nothing. But through Christ, we can do all things. This writing will help you better understand the important subject of prayer. My prayer, is that you grab hold of the truths about Christian prayer, and **begin to implement them in your personal life, family life, and in your church and city.** May you grow in The Fear Of The Lord, and encourage others to pray to help bring in the end-time harvest of souls.

“AND he spake a parable unto them *to this end*, **that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;**”
“**And he said, The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.**” Luke 18:1,27.

All Scripture references in this writing are from the King James Version of the Holy Bible.

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Prayer

Prayer changes things. Prayer is both a powerful tool and a weapon. Without prayer, people often lose their hope, and also their connection to God. Prayer often has unseen results, but should never be neglected, dismissed, or discounted. It is a supernatural force in the universe, and is one we are called to participate in.

Prayer causes us to be quiet, and to come into unity with Him, so we can properly **discern, listen, and agree** with what God is planning, speaking, and doing. When we know the plans of God, we can then intercede for the world, regions, nations, cities, leaders, governments, evangelism, places, families, people, and situations.

If people fail to listen and properly hear God first, then they will likely pray selfish, prideful prayers, having little or no positive effect. Many people pray only when they have a need or are experiencing a crisis. We are to pray without ceasing, always maintaining an attitude of prayer, so our prayers will be properly answered.

Like anything worth doing, we should invest the time to learn about prayer, and exercise our ability to pray, and become very proficient at it, before we face a life-changing crisis. How can we expect to do something well that we have never practiced before? Would an athlete ever enter a race, and expect to win, without ever having practiced and exercised, to get their body in proper shape beforehand? When we are in a time of need, we can rest assured our prayers will be answered, if we have properly prepared ourselves by learning to pray.

Prayer is vital to the health and the success of all people, families, ministries, churches, work and endeavors. Anything worth doing should be covered first with prayer. Many people get entangled in wrong relationships and make bad decisions because they forgot to first seek God's advice through prayer. When we neglect God, by leaving Him out of our decision making, we often experience serious problems. Our reasoning ability will often tell us it is alright to do something, but if we had prayed about it, there would be a **lack of peace** inside, warning us to avoid making that decision. Self-sufficiency, and pride, go before a fall. *See Proverbs 16:18.*

Prayer demonstrates that we do not have all the answers, and that we are committed to rely totally on God for His Direction and His Wisdom. Prayer is not a demonstration of weakness, as some suppose, but rather it is a vital source for receiving an impartation from God of strength and empowerment. It causes us to look to Him for our provision and direction, and to deny our flesh, mind, and reasoning from leading us. Prayer brings us closer to Jesus, and to His Word, and into unity with other Christian Believers. Prayer seeks after God's Will.

When we discover the secret of **not telling God how to do things**, and instead focus our prayers on Him and His Will, we will unlock untold realms of power and blessings. **“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”** Matthew 6:33. Don't come to God telling Him what you need first, but rather *Seek Him* first, and then He will take care of all the things that you need.

Prayer, simply put, is communication with God. We have this wonderful access to communicate directly with God through what Jesus Christ did for us on The Cross. His Precious Blood was spilled for the remission of our sins so that we could have right relationship with God and also have access to The Throne Room of God.

Prayer is a wonderful privilege that should be treasured and exercised regularly. We must always reverence God, and never take Him, Jesus Christ, or His Holy Spirit for granted, and always have a Fear Of The Lord. When we come before God in a spirit of humility, the doors to Heaven will open up, and we shall see results.

Prayer Is Essential, And Can Pull Down Enemy Strongholds

“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (**For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;**) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;” 2 Corinthians 10:3-5. Our thoughts and our flesh must bow to the Spirit Of God. **We must get rid of all pride, selfish motivations, wrong thoughts, and unforgiveness toward others,** if our prayers are to succeed. “...The **effectual fervent prayer** of a righteous man **availeth much.**” James 5:16.

“AND he spake a parable unto them *to this end*, **that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;**” “**And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him,** though he bear long with them? **I tell you that he will avenge them speedily.** Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, **shall he find faith on the earth?**” Luke 18:1,7-8. Jesus is looking for those who will pray and trust Him with a child-like faith.

“**If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.**” 2 Chronicles 7:14. God sets standards and conditions, that He requires us to obey, before He will act. Prayer will bring clarity, when done in faith without doubting, and will change lives, nations, and situations.

“**As for me, I will call upon God; and the LORD shall save me.** Evening, and morning, and at noon, **will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice.**” Psalm 55:16-17. We are called to pray without ceasing. “**Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing.**” “**Quench not the Spirit.**” 1 Thessalonians 5:16,17,19.

Jesus gave us instructions for prayer: “But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, **pray to thy Father which is in secret;** and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly. 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 ye have need of, before ye ask him. After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as *it is* in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen. For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.” “Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” Matthew 6:6-15,19-21. Prayer should acknowledge God as the source of all power, wisdom, and every good thing, demonstrating proper reverence, worship, honor, and respect to Him.

Maintaining Your Communication With God

Always be careful **to maintain your communication to God through prayer.** Many people get into trouble when they think they have the answer. The neglect of prayer will cause one to become self reliant. God wants to always be consulted, believed, trusted and acknowledged. “**Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil.**” Proverbs 3:5-7.

Holiness Requirement

We should clearly know that **without faith it is impossible to please God**. See Hebrews 11:6. Faith precedes holiness, and the person that has true faith will have true obedience. See Romans 6:19. Holiness is having the **attitude settled within you that you will do what is right and good, and shun all things that are evil and wrong**. Holiness requires a blameless walk before The Lord. See *God describe Job's holiness* in Job 1:8.

“As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, **Be ye holy; for I am holy.**” 1 Peter 1:14-16. “**Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.**” Matthew 5:8.

“**Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD?** or who shall stand in his holy place? **He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart;** who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. He shall receive the blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of his salvation.” Psalm 24:3-5.

“**Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:** Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble *you*, and thereby many be defiled;” Hebrews 12:14-15. Holiness is a requirement to see our prayers answered, and to see The Lord. The enemy knows that when we sin, we become separated from God, and our prayers are no longer a threat.

We must have **both faith and holiness working together** in our Christian walk. Just as faith without works is dead, **we can not have holiness without faith**. It is impossible to persevere in holiness without faith. The two are necessarily intertwined, and we can not be complete without having them both operating in our lives.

Jesus Christ is the author and finisher of our faith (Hebrews 12:2), and The Holy Spirit, in conjunction with The Word Of God, **helps us to be able to walk in holiness. Without faith it is impossible to please God, and without holiness no one shall see God.** Holiness comes to us as we submit to, and rely on, the leading of The Holy Spirit. “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.” Romans 8:14.

You should **ask in faith**, nothing wavering. A double-minded person is unstable in all his ways. See James 1:6-8. “Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, **believe** that ye receive *them*, and ye shall have *them*. And when ye stand praying, **forgive**, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.” Mark 11:24-25. Thank God and expect to receive.

Many prayers go unanswered because of a lack of faith, entertaining doubt that the prayer will be answered, or because of the lack of meeting the **requirement for holiness in the life of the person**. Many people may think that because they have done good works in their lives, that they have met the **holiness requirement** to have their prayers answered by God. The act of doing good works without having faith in God, and in Jesus Christ, profits nothing. **A walk of holiness will produce good works naturally for faith is already present.**

As we learn to love God, and learn to love to walk in His Holiness, we will find that our prayers accomplish more, and that they better line up with God's Will. As we hunger, and strive, to be taught by God's Word and by His Spirit, we will find ourselves led into new dimensions in the Spirit and in prayer. As holiness becomes more natural for us, and as our **spirit takes charge** over our flesh, **we will find ourselves being led more by The Holy Spirit**, increasing in faith, becoming more like Jesus, and having our prayers properly answered.

Worldly Entanglements

We need to constantly be on guard against the things of the world. The world tries to entice, and overwhelm us with its lies, distractions, sins, and entanglements. These things cause separation between God and us, and will inhibit our prayers, fellowship, and communication with God. “Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? **and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?** And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in *them*; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and **be ye separate**, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean *thing*; and **I will receive you**, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty. **HAVING therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.**” 2 Corinthians 6:14-18, 7:1. **Avoid all sins!**

“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: **Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.** For God shall bring **every work** into judgment, with **every secret thing**, whether *it be* good, or whether *it be* evil.” Ecclesiastes 12:13-14. **Repent of your sins now to God, before it is too late!**

Read my many Christian writings, including *Gospel*, for more information about The Gospel, or Good News, of Jesus Christ, and discover how to live your life in a holy manner, that is pleasing to God and Jesus Christ.

Diligence In Prayer

We are admonished to seek after God’s Wisdom diligently. *See* Proverbs 2:1-9. We are told to seek after His Kingdom and His Righteousness. *See* Matthew 6:33. **We are told to come boldly unto the throne of grace**, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. *See* Hebrews 4:16. The Holy Bible contains many examples of the benefits of diligence concerning things of God. We also need to be **diligent in prayer.**

“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. Then shall ye call upon me, and **ye shall go and pray unto me**, and I will hearken unto you. And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.” Jeremiah 29:11-13.

“**Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.** For my thoughts *are* not your thoughts, neither *are* your ways my ways, saith the LORD.” Isaiah 55:6-8. Prayer requires diligent seeking after God.

Too many people only call out to God when they are experiencing trouble, and neglect communication with Him in good times. God desires to be sought and thanked at all times. The more **you take prayer seriously**, and are diligent when you pray, the more likely you will find that your prayers are being heard and answered. He will hear us when we seek for Him with all our heart. You should be diligent about prayer, and pray daily.

Having a regular prayer life, with regular times of prayer, will cause you to get into the habit of prayer. You will soon begin to find that prayer will come easier for you, and become more enjoyable, once you decide to spend time communing with God each day in prayer. Allow the Precious Holy Spirit to guide you in prayer.

The Hidden Time Of Prayer

Solitary time in prayer is essential for recharging yourself, and preparing yourself for what lies ahead for the day. Jesus prayed alone to His Father regularly, as recorded in The Bible. If Jesus found it vital and necessary to have frequent times of solitary prayer, why do so many who profess to be Christians, or followers of Jesus, believe that they do not need to take time in solitary prayer? If Christ prayed often, must we not do likewise? We are not better than Christ. We must be careful to follow after His pattern of frequently engaging in prayer.

“But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.” Matthew 6:6.

There are many benefits to having a solitary place to pray, or a “prayer closet.” Your place of prayer should be free from all distractions, including phones and communication devices. You want to give God the glory He deserves, and not interrupt your prayer time talking with others. **Abide with Christ in the Secret Place**, and give Him the time and the honor that He is worthy of. Take God’s Word with you into your prayer closet and also have a notebook and something to write with. God often speaks to us when we take time to be quiet before Him. Ask Him to help you to pray. Relax, wait upon The Lord, and pray as led by The Holy Spirit.

Prayer Is Supernatural

God’s Ways are above our ways. We need to have the Mind of Christ in all things, but the world constantly tries to distract us from properly hearing what God is saying. When we **take the time to properly hear** from God, through **times of prayer**, our spirit is refreshed and reinvigorated. Remember that God operates from a **supernatural realm**, and that His Ways are way above the natural, or ordinary ways, of doing things that we are so accustomed to. When we **pray properly**, we tap into a **supernatural power, protection, and tool** that can be used **to change the world, so that God’s Kingdom is advanced.** **“(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)”** 2 Corinthians 10:4.

To neglect prayer, is to go out without God’s Best. We need His protection and empowerment. We will have problems, if we do not know about prayer, **“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge...”** Hosea 4:6. We must build our faith upon the Solid Rock, which is Christ, so that we shall not be shaken by the trials that are soon to come upon the world. *See* Luke 6:47-48. Stand fast in your faith through reading God’s Word and through prayer. **“THIS know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.”** 2 Timothy 3:1. We need to abide in The Secret Place Of The Most High, having God’s Supernatural Power and Protection (Psalm 91).

The Family Altar

Having a set, regular, consistent time of prayer for your family is critical to the proper spiritual development of each family member. The pattern that you give them shall stay with them as they grow and mature in life.

Passing down your faith to your children is essential in doing your part in your proper stewardship before God. It has been said that, “A family that prays together stays together.” Prayer and Bible Study will do more to protect and enhance your family than any amount of money you could spend, or many hours of counseling would do. I truly believe that! **Children are looking for The Truth.** They need to see that **God cares about them, and answers their prayers**, so that their belief, faith, and trust in Christ **can be properly reinforced.**

The Unseen World

Prayer extends your horizons beyond yourself and allows you to truly impact the lives of others in the world. There is no distance in prayer. You can touch people's lives and change events, even those in far away places. When prayer and God's Word come together, in alignment, they are a mighty and powerful weapon, that will either stop or severely disrupt the working of the enemy. That is why the enemy works so hard to stop prayer.

"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. **For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.**" Ephesians 6:10-13. There is a spiritual host that longs to see us discouraged and defeated here in this world, and to be forever separated from God in Hell.

Too many Christians refuse to believe there is a devil, or fail to realize that there are demonic spirits working against them. Many people "bury their head in the sand" when it comes to the spiritual or The Unseen World. Just because we do not visibly see them does not mean that they do not exist, and are not working against us.

God warns us to be not ignorant of the enemy's devices. "**Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.**" 2 Corinthians 2:11. Prayer will help us to discern and avoid various attacks that the enemy has planned against us. **It may be hazardous, if you choose to ignore an enemy's attack.**

Prayer is designed to be used defensively, and as an offensive weapon. "**Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist steadfast in the faith...**" 1 Peter 5:8-9. When you speak **The Word, in faith**, and also **pray**, you are resisting the devil. "**Neither give place to the devil.**" Ephesians 4:27. "**Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.**" James 4:7. Always be sure to live a life of humility and purity and avoid all sin. When there is lack of prayer, or when a person becomes separated from God through sin, the enemy attacks.

The Lack Of Prayer Meetings and Prayer Among Saints

Jesus taught, "...saying unto them, **Is it not written, My house shall be called of all nations the house of prayer? but ye have made it a den of thieves.**" Mark 11:17. *See also* Matthew 21:13 and Isaiah 56:7.

The Church was designed to be a **house of prayer**, a place where the called out ones who were followers of Jesus Christ would come together, listen to God's Word, **pray** for one another, and freely **give** to one another. Compare that with what we sadly find at some churches: The feel-good mentality, where preachers tickle the itchy ears of the hearers, where both The Gospel and The Blood Of Christ are watered down or removed, and where **there is a form of godliness**, but The Power Of God is not evident. "I CHARGE *thee* therefore before God, and the Lord **Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead** at his appearing and his kingdom; **Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort** with all longsuffering **and doctrine**. For the time will come when **they will not endure sound doctrine**; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away *their* ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables." "**Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;** Having a form of godliness, **but denying the power thereof:** from such turn away." 2 Timothy 4:1-4, 3:4-5.

Prayer Amplification

We need to **restore prayer** back to the churches. We need to see people meeting together and holding prayer and intercession meetings again, both inside and outside of the church buildings. Many of the dear Christian saints, who lived in generations before ours, **tarried at the altar** in prayer **until they got a release**, knowing their prayers had been heard by God and had touched Him. When you pray, seek after God's Perfect Will and be led by His Peace. "For ye shall **go out with joy, and be led forth with peace**: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap *their* hands." Isaiah 55:12.

Prayer is mighty, and will do great things to advance The Kingdom Of God, if properly focused. Prayers can be **rendered ineffective, if they are not focused, or if you pray with the wrong intentions or motives**. Be careful to always pray as led by The Holy Spirit and not to pray based on your own selfish wants and desires. "**Ye ask, and receive not**, because ye ask amiss, that ye may **consume it upon your lusts**." James 4:3.

Prayer unleashes mighty power! The results of prayer will intensify, when Believers **pray together in unity**. The Holy Bible is filled with examples of Believers in Jesus **praying together in one accord, in agreement, with expectancy**. That is why the devil likes to sow discord among the brethren, to break the power of unity. God's people are to walk in peace, love, and unity, and are not to sow discord, or rebellion, among Believers. God is clearly against those who devise evil, and those who sow discord and rebellion. See Proverbs 6:12-19.

Expectancy In Prayer

We are called by Jesus to **expect our prayers to be answered**, when we pray according to The Father's Will, in faith, with no wavering. "After this manner therefore pray ye: **Our Father** which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. **Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done** in earth, as *it is* in heaven." Matthew 6:9-10. **We are to pray to The Heavenly Father, just as Jesus always prayed to His Father**. "...Verily, verily, I say unto you, **Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you. Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full**." John 16:23-24. "**Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them**." Mark 11:24. We must forgive others, and believe that we have received what we have asked for, in order to receive the answers to our prayers. Unforgiveness or doubt, will block our prayers from being answered by God. "**And when ye stand praying, forgive**, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses." Mark 11:25-26. Jesus said, "**And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do**, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. **If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it**. If ye love me, keep my commandments." John 14:13-15. Always trust and rely upon The Holy Spirit to help you pray.

A Mighty Army In Prayer

"**And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive**." Matthew 21:22. "But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life." Jude 1:20-21. There is power in multiplied prayer. **God promises to defend and protect us, if we belong to Him**. See Leviticus 26:7-12. "**LET God arise, let his enemies be scattered: let them also that hate him flee before him**." Psalm 68:1.

The more people that come together in agreement in prayer, the more power you unleash against the enemy. Since there is no distance in prayer, we should yield ourselves to The Holy Spirit to properly hear what God is speaking, and to pray according to His Leading. In this way, there can be multiple thousands of Christians praying at the same time in unison from all around the world for a given situation, need, country, or person.

This is known as intercessory prayer, because at the same time, Believers come together as led by The Spirit and pray in one accord. These intercessors, or prayer warriors, are sensitive to the leading of The Holy Spirit, and feel a burden, and a call to pray, at all hours of the day and night. There exists this special calling, which is given by God to those who are called to continually be in prayer, often combined with fasting, interceding and standing in the gap for the needs of others. They play a vital part in helping to restrain the forces of evil.

When **small groups of people** meet for prayer, there is also great power to hold back the enemy, and change world events and situations in people's lives. These **prayer meetings are especially powerful** when there is unity in prayer. The ability to maintain agreement in prayer in your prayer meetings falls on having a prayer leader who is Spirit-led. They should be sensitive to the leading of The Holy Spirit at all times, as the enemy may try to disturb your prayer meeting with disruptions, distractions, and fleshly, carnal prayers. The prayer leader must be vigilant to watch out for anything that would disrupt Spirit-birthed prayer and break the unity.

Never underestimate the Biblical principle: by the agreement of two people a thing is established. The enemy knows that Jesus promised that there is power in agreement, and in unity of prayer, **“Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.”** Matthew 18:18-20.

There is a time and place, in each Believer's life for solitary prayer, family altar prayer, and corporate prayer. Also, there are many different types of prayer, but there is One God who hears them all, if we pray according to His Standards as outlined in His Word. Prayer is not designed to be difficult, but rather liberating. There is much freedom when you truly learn to pray according to the Biblical pattern He designed. God has chosen us to be actively involved in shaping and changing the world that we live in to reflect the glory of His Kingdom. May you discover the benefits of Spirit-led prayer, and develop into a yielded vessel fit for The Master's use.

We Must Forgive Offenses

Jesus said, **“...It is impossible but that offences will come: but woe unto him, through whom they come!”** Luke 17:1. Offenses will come at you **through people**, including from those who call themselves Christians. People will get offended by you, and will accuse and attack you. It is how we deal with offenses, abuses, and attacks that is important. **“Be ye angry, and sin not...Neither give place to the devil.”** Ephesians 4:26-27.

We are not to let an offense, bitterness, anger, jealousy, strife, or anything else cause us to sin. The devil is looking for any door to plant thoughts of retaliation, rebellion, bitterness, hatred, pride, or jealousy into our lives. We are always to forgive and love others. “Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him. And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith.” Luke 17:3-5. Let nothing break our love, or our fellowship, with God, or our fellow man.

Unity And Walking In Faithfulness

“Neither pray I for these alone, but **for them also which shall believe on me** through their word; **That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us:** that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; **that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.**” “**And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.**” John 17:20-23,26. Jesus wants us to be one with Him, The Father, and each other.

Throughout Scripture, there is a **call to unity** among Believers, and also among the various congregations of the church. Many churches, ministers, and ministries are fighting among themselves over who is the greatest, or best, spiritually, and who is in control over sheep. It is all too common for pastors to distrust other pastors, for fear that they may poison or steal “their sheep.” The Believers, sheep, or “giving units” often are looked upon primarily for their tithe and giving potential, and are held onto by a pastor for fear of a lack of revenue to that particular church. The biblical pattern is that Christians should be be discipled, allowed to grow, and then sent out, so they can produce other sheep, do the work of the ministry, and help to start other churches.

We need to pray that the many hurting and lost souls in the world would repent from their sins, and come to believe upon, and trust in, Jesus Christ with their whole lives. **Many new converts to Christ are turned off** to Christianity, and become discouraged, when they see all of the infighting, and the lack of unity, that exists between Christians, and between Christian churches. We need unified prayer for both the church and the lost.

Many people are scattered around, without shepherds watching over them. “But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, **as sheep having no shepherd.** Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.” Matthew 9:36-38.

“**So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.**” Romans 14:12. We must be found faithful. “**Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.**” 1 Corinthians 4:2. **When The Lord returns, will He find faithfulness in The Church and also in you?** “And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. **Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?**” Luke 18:7-8.

Right now The Church is fragmented because many Christians are fighting between one another over who is greatest in God’s Kingdom. We let differences prevent common union and prayer between us. Jesus Christ is not coming back for a divided church, but one where there is unity and purity, without having fragmentation. We need to stop allowing ourselves to be used by the devil to attack and tear down one another, but rather we must draw upon the common message that Jesus Christ came to save lost souls, and share it faithfully with as many people as will listen to it. We are to be examples of Christ’s Hope and Love to this lost an dying world.

Prayer is vital before we engage in any activity, be it a church service, ministry, a business, or a job. **Taking time to pray,** shows God that we long to communicate with Him, and put Him first in our lives. His Counsel and Wisdom are better than any we can get from other sources. Prayer helps us to walk in humility and avoid pride. **By spending time in prayer, we demonstrate and acknowledge our complete dependence on Him.**

We need to prove to Jesus that we believe Him, having child-like faith, as dear children (Luke 18:16-17), and **we must keep our covenant**, being careful to always walk in love, holiness, and obedience to His Word. Jesus wants us to “...**Occupy till I come.**” Luke 19:13. He has given us all the opportunity to do His Work in this life here on the earth. Occupy means to busy oneself, to do business as in work or trade, to be active, to be a steward over, to take care of, and finally **it means to be found faithful in doing that which Jesus has given you charge over.** Run the race as to win, fight the good fight of faith, do not give up or give in to the enemy, flee sin, live holy, and pray without ceasing. At the end, may Jesus say to you, “...**Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.**” Matthew 25:21. **Pray for, encourage, and take care of** widows, orphans, strangers, prisoners, the sick, and the poor. “And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done *it* unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done *it* unto me.” Matthew 25:40. We please Christ, when we are faithful to do what He has called us to do for Him.

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.” 1 Corinthians 15:58.

We have these promises of what shall happen in the end times. Know, prepare yourself, and pray. “Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name’s sake. And then shall **many be offended**, and shall betray one another, and shall **hate one another.** And many **false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.** And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. **But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.** And this gospel of the kingdom **shall be preached in all the world for a witness** unto all nations; and then shall the end come.” Matthew 24:9-14.

Doubting The Supernatural (Doubting God)

As we approach the time of the end of this age, we see people hunger more after supernatural things. Movies and TV are full of counterfeit supernatural manifestations, but **God by His Nature is supernatural. He is so above the natural** that our human minds can not comprehend Him. We can only see glimpses of Who He Is. We get into trouble if we doubt God, or if we try to limit Him to only do things and work in ways we can see.

To doubt God, is to question His Nature and defy His Existence. **It demonstrates a lack of faith and trust** in God, and places that person in a position of judgment over people, and even over God. Disbelief declares that the person knows better than God, and places them, in their minds as being in control over their own life. Pride and selfishness are the fruits of a person who denies the goodness, character, and the existence of God.

When we doubt God’s Character or His Ability, we break the fellowship and the intimacy we have with Him through prayer. For God is not obligated to respond to the prayers of a person who refuses to believe in Him.

Above all, God wants to be believed. He is looking for people who trust and believe Him, who are willing to **cooperate with Him**, so He can work in and through their lives to accomplish His Perfect Will here on earth. In life, you will either be **flowing with God or against God.** Allow Him to work and flow through your life.

Be careful to **never take God for granted or treat Him as common.** Do not try to define God by what you know, or by your experiences, but **pray and hunger to really know Him.** **We must honor and glorify God.** “...I will be sanctified in them that come nigh me...before all the people I will be glorified...” Leviticus 10:3.

Disqualified Prayers

Through faith in Christ, we have access to The Father to have our prayers heard. If we doubt, or deny, Jesus Christ, then we should not expect to receive anything from God. “But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. **For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.** A double minded man *is* unstable in all his ways.” James 1:6-8. When we pray, **we must always desire to know God’s Perfect Will.** “...yet ye have not, because ye ask not. Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume *it* upon your lusts.” James 4:2-3.

Intercession And Servanthood

We should pray for others regularly, as led by The Spirit, and always put the needs of others above our own. A true intercessor in prayer, is touched, or burdened, on the behalf of others who are in a specific need, such as salvation, healing, safety, financial, and family struggles. **They have compassion, and a love, for others,** and are willing to invest their energy, and time, in prayer, on behalf of people, who may be strangers. **When you pray, you need to empty yourself of self,** and instead be concerned about the people, situations, and needs, that The Holy Spirit places upon you. Remove all distractions, **and refuse to let your reasoning be involved in how you pray.** This “detachment of self” is vital if we are to pray spiritual prayers instead of fleshly prayers. Intercessory prayer will equip people, build people up, and also prevent attacks of the enemy.

All of our prayers need to be tempered by the Will Of God. Perhaps we must **endure for a season,** patiently awaiting the reports of victory. Our obedience in prayer is the key, as we do not always know the results that our prayers are having in the spiritual realms. Never tell God how to do something, but humbly ask that His Perfect Will be done. It is alright, and even desirable, to tell God in prayer that you do not have the answers. He delights when we rely and depend completely on Him. When we bend our will, and yield, He can use us. For then we have put our trust in God, and not in ourselves. We are called **to have a servant’s heart,** always walking in humility. We must never exalt ourselves or place our needs above the needs of others. It should be our delight to serve one another in prayer, by lifting up their situations and needs before our Heavenly Father.

“But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant. And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.” Matthew 23:11-12.

“*Let nothing be done* through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But **made himself of no reputation,** and took upon him **the form of a servant,** and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, **he humbled himself,** and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: **That at the name of Jesus** every knee should bow, of *things* in heaven, and *things* in earth, and *things* under the earth; And *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, **but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure. Do all things without murmurings and disputings: That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;**” Philippians 2:3-15.

Eternal Life And Salvation

“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Romans 6:23. Where we spend eternity depends on the choices we make, on how to live our life, in this life. **We will all spend eternity somewhere, either in Hell, eternally separated from God and also in torment, or else in Heaven, having eternal intimacy and fellowship with The Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ.**

“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;” Romans 3:23. That is why Jesus had to come and live a sinless life, to pay the penalty for our sins, to reconcile us back to God. “For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.” 2 Corinthians 5:21.

What a wonderful gift and what a wonderful Savior! He is calling all people to come to Him and drink freely of the well of Salvation. *See* Isaiah 12:2-3,55:1-2. **“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.** Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke *is* easy, and my burden is light.” Matthew 11:28-30.

Prayer is a privilege given to Believers, and those who desire to become Christian Believers. If a person **does not** know, and trust, Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, they can come to God through prayer, having faith in Jesus Christ, asking The Heavenly Father **to save them from the penalty** of all of their **sins**, by accepting and applying The Wonderful Blood Sacrifice that Jesus Christ paid for them on The Cross, and by **repenting** of, and turning from, **all of their sins**, and asking **Jesus to be their Lord and Savior** from that day forward.

Repentance is turning from your sin to The Savior. We are to be Christ’s disciples, “Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.” Acts 20:21.

When you pray and **confess your sins directly to God through your faith in Jesus Christ**, you should then accept the forgiveness of all your sins through Jesus Christ, and **live your life in a manner** that is pleasing to God and that glorifies both Him and His Son, Jesus Christ. You please God, when you acknowledge His Son, as both Lord of everything in your life, and also as your Savior. **Watch out for living a deceived life, one of seeking after pleasure and gratification of self.** Many people are **deceived by the devil to get all that they can out life, to make themselves comfortable in life, and to ignore the needs of others. They stroke and feed their flesh**, without seeing a need to crucify their flesh daily to follow and glorify Jesus Christ. Because dead flesh can not sin, the enemy wants you to continually prop up and keep alive your old sinful carnal self.

God wants you to demonstrate and confess to the world, by your words and your lifestyle, that you belong to Him. It is not just a one time confession that God is after, but a lifestyle where you **live the life and mean it! Self can become a god that you serve in place of God**, so always examine yourself and your motives in all areas. God demands **a life without compromise**, that continually serves and glorifies Him **no matter what.**

God will not have any other gods before Him! “**They feared the LORD, and served their own gods**, after the manner of the nations whom they carried away from thence.” “And the covenant that I have made with you ye shall not forget; neither shall ye fear other gods. **But the LORD your God ye shall fear**; and he shall deliver you out of the hand of all your enemies. Howbeit **they did not hearken**, but they did after their former manner. **So these nations feared the LORD, and served their graven images**, both their children, and their children’s children: as did their fathers, so do they unto this day.” 2 Kings 17:33,38-41.

“I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that *is* in heaven above, or that *is* in the earth beneath, or that *is* in the water under the earth: **Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them:** for I the LORD thy God *am* a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth *generation* of them that hate me; And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.” Exodus 20:2-6.

“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh **I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.**” Galatians 2:20. “But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, **and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.**” Romans 13:14. **Repent of your sins, and then confess to others that you now serve God, and that Jesus Christ is your Lord and your Savior, and that you will serve God alone.** Pray and ask for God’s help so that you will keep your vow and always properly reverence Him, and **not allow any other gods before Him.**

“FORASMUCH then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, **arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin;** That he no longer should live the rest of *his* time in the flesh to the lusts of men, **but to the will of God.**” 1 Peter 4:1-2. “**And they that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.** Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.” Galatians 5:24-26.

“This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that **God is light,** and in him is **no darkness at all.** If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. **If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. MY little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. **And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.** He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him. He **that saith he abideth** in him ought **himself also so to walk, even as he walked.**” 1 John 1:5-2:6.

“Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.” Hebrews 4:16. “I BESEECH you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service. **And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind,** that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. For I say, through the grace given unto me, **to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think;** but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.” Romans 12:1-3.

“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and **pray** unto me, and **I will hearken** unto you. And ye shall seek me, and find *me*, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.” Jeremiah 29:11-13. Study to show yourself approved to God, and always pursue holiness. See 2 Timothy 2:15, 1 Peter 1:13-25.

Pray In Love

When we pray for others, we need to always **pray in love** towards them. We must not have any pride, envy, condemnation, hatred, disdain, racism, judgmental attitude, legalism, or any other thing that puts them down or discredits them in our eyes or heart. **God created us to love Him, to love others, and to remain faithful.**

“...thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I am the LORD.” Leviticus 19:18. **“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.”** Deuteronomy 6:4-5. *See also* Luke 10:25-37. **“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!”** Romans 10:13-15. Do not neglect other people around you. They are your neighbors. Reach out to all people with the Love and Hope of Jesus Christ, without any expectation of receiving anything back from them in return. Sow seeds of love into the lives of those who are lonely, hurting, desperate, and in need of their souls to be saved by God.

“But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.” 1 Corinthians 2:9. Be the light of Christ, so that people may see and know Jesus. God is looking for people who would love Him, and remain faithful to Him. **Pray for people to truly repent of their sins, and come to know God’s Salvation through Jesus Christ.**

Resolve disputes with other people quickly. **Let nothing hinder your prayers to God.** “But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire. **Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.** Agree with thine adversary quickly, whiles thou art in the way with him; lest at any time the adversary deliver thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer, and thou be cast into prison.” Matthew 5:22-25. Strive to **walk in love with all people.**

“Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins. **Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.** No man hath seen God at any time. **If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.** Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son *to be* the Saviour of the world. Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God. And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. **Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment.** He that feareth is not made perfect in love.” 1 John 4:7-18. Love and pray for your enemies. *See* Matthew 5:43-45. **“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”** John 3:16.

Maintaining Our Belief In God And The Promises In God's Word

God delights when people know His Word, and remind Him of it. We demonstrate our faith, by speaking His Word without any doubt, fears, or wavering. God rewards people who believe in Him, and believe His Word. He longs for a people who would trust Him no matter what they see or experience around them. God delights in us having the faith as a child, trusting in Him at all times. Unbelief opens up sin in our lives, causing there to be a separation between us and God. **Maintaining our belief in Him** and in His Word, pleases God, keeps our relationship with God open, and allows for our prayers to be prayed properly, in alignment with His Will.

Without a proper understanding of The Word Of God, how can we properly know Whom we have faith in, to protect ourselves and our loved ones against the various attacks of the enemy? The Word was so important to Jesus, that He used the Sword Of The Spirit, which is The Word Of God, to defeat all the devil's temptations.

The devil is the **father of lies** (John 8:44), and a murderer from the beginning, and desires **to deceive every person** who has every lived, tricking them to live life, so as to qualify themselves to spend **eternity in Hell**.

Temptation is an invitation for us to be deceived, or else to be found faithful to God. When you are faithful to overcome all temptations to sin, you demonstrate that you have chosen to live a holy life, that is separate and set apart from the world. **“Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.”** 2 Corinthians 6:17-18. When we fear God we keep His Commands.

“Blessed *is* the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him. **Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:** But every man is tempted, **when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.** Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: **and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. Do not err, my beloved brethren.**” James 1:12-16. “There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: **but God *is* faithful,** who will **not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able;** but will with the temptation **also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear *it.***” 1 Corinthians 10:13. **God has provided the ultimate way of escape from the penalty that sin demands, through the precious blood of His Son, Jesus Christ.** When we know God's Word, and use His Word when we pray, we shall see results, as long as we are not engaged in sin or other types of disobedience.

God created us to walk with Him and have fellowship with Him. Prayer is vital to our relationship with God. So is studying, knowing, and applying **The Word Of God.** God's Word is **a treasure chest** filled with many valuable gems and promises, **just waiting to be sought and applied.** “Finally, my brethren, **be strong in the Lord,** and in the power of his might. Put on the **whole armour of God,** that ye may be able to **stand against the wiles of the devil.** For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places.* **Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore,** having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;” Ephesians 6:10-18.

The more we know of God's Holy Word, the more we should know that we must abide with Christ, for apart from Jesus we are nothing. **"I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing."** **"If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love."** John 15:5,7-9. Jesus Christ is The Word Made Flesh. Everything that you need can be found in Jesus Christ, The Word. As you ask the Holy Spirit to make The Bible real to you, He will reveal Jesus Christ unto you in a deeper way. Now, when you pray, you are to pray God's Word, the very Words Of Christ about the situation you are facing. The more you know of His Word, the more prepared you are to face and defeat any attack or temptation that is thrown at you. Respond to the devil with, "It Is Written," and then tell him where it is written in **God's Holy Word**. That is **The Sword Of The Spirit**. The enemy of your soul can not stand, or keep attacking you when you quote God's Word to him that refutes the temptation or attack. The Word says in James 4:7, **"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."** and in Isaiah 54:17, **"No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn.** This *is* the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness *is* of me, saith the LORD." Also, we are encouraged in 1 John 4:4, "Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because **greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.**"

The Word Of God, when spoken with The Authority Of The Believer, draws a line in the sand that the enemy is not permitted to cross. It is only when we know and apply The Word that the enemy must cease the attack. Demons and evil spirits lie in wait for a crack to appear in a Believer's defenses, which appears when there is unbelief, doubt, or other types of sin in the person's life. That is why we must always be on guard to flee sin.

When a Christian Believer stops believing in God, God's Word, or in Jesus Christ, they are in serious danger of inviting a visit and an attack from the enemy. Sin is separation from God, including separation from God's protection. We must dwell in The Secret Place Of The Most High, and abide under God's Shadow. Psalm 91.

Jesus gave us the authority to resist all attacks of the enemy, and to pull down enemy strongholds. **Be careful not to try to fight** the unseen spiritual enemy **with fleshly, carnal weapons**. Rather, for our warfare, use the spiritual weapons that God has provided for us, in Jesus Christ. **Use His Name, His Word, and His Blood. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Stand firm in God's Word, and apply it to any situation that arises which is attempting to discourage or defeat you.** The enemy knows The Word Of God, but he is not obliged to cease tempting and attacking you unless you speak The Word that addresses the situation, thereby showing that you are standing properly on God's Promises contained in The Word. If you observe a thief has broken into your house, unless you use the proper weapons and stop him, he will continue to attack you and steal your possessions. You have authority to kick him out, but you must do it, or he will continue. **"...for we are not ignorant of his devices."** 2 Corinthians 2:11. **"Neither give place to the devil."** Ephesians 4:27.

The Biblical principle applies here: **whatever you allow, God will allow.** God created **you with a will**, and He never violates that will. God never forces you to come to Jesus, to receive of His Salvation, neither does He force demons, evil spirits, and Satan to stop deceiving or attacking you, if you allow them. He gave us the the power to cast out devils (Mark 16:15-17), and to bind and loose (Matthew 18:18-20). Unless you bind the strongman, he will take advantage of you until you resist him properly with The Word Of God. By saying "It Is Written," and quoting Scripture, you show that you know, have faith in, and believe God's Word. **"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."** Romans 10:17. Pray and speak The Word Of God.

Living Uncluttered From The World

When you attempt to live the **perfect Christian** life to please God, you may be tempted to do things and say things that are unrealistic. If you try to “measure up” to the ideal that you believe Christ would have for you, with your own effort, you will likely be setting yourself up for failure and disappointment. I have known too many Christians who tried to be holy and perfect in their living, and who failed, becoming discouraged. You can not live a perfect and holy life before The Lord using your own strength, flesh, and reasoning abilities.

Jesus provided a pattern and a way for us to enter into a life of holiness. **Instead of performing much effort and work** to get there, it requires absolute surrender and yielding to His Ways and His Will. The Bible is full of practical examples for daily living, but no matter how much “head knowledge” you gain, you are required to yield and submit yourself to Christ daily. **Invest time in prayer.** Seek God’s Kingdom and Righteousness. Take no thought of how you are going to live or provide for yourself. When you shift the focus from yourself to God, you give Him permission to provide for your needs properly. Prayer brings your focus **back on God**, and away from self. Prayer will help you to see what is really important in life, and not just what you thought was important. Seeking after money, possessions, positions, pleasures, **and things**, will become unimportant, when God is the real focus of your life. God is waiting for you to be hungry for Him so you will pursue Him.

People tend to serve many masters, but in reality they should only serve The One True Master, Who Is God! **“Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?” “For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness. What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things is death. But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”** Romans 6:16, 20-23. Whom do you pursue and serve?

“For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” Luke 12:34, Matthew 6:21. **You will pursue**, and invest time and money into whatever you love. If you love the world, you will be consumed with things of the world. If you love God, you will be consumed with His Righteousness and the things of His Kingdom.

“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.” 1 John 2:15-17. Remove worldly things that bind you!

We are to live uncluttered from the world and all its seductions. Our sole affection should be on God, not on the things of this world! We believe **that we need things** that the world has to offer, but in reality we need nothing except to be found in Christ. We need to pursue, desire, love, honor, obey, believe, and respect God.

When we abide with Christ, nothing of this world matters. He is the true source of everything that we need. We accumulate possessions and things. But, in reality, our kingdom is not of this world. See John 17:14-24.

“If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man’s religion is vain. Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.” James 1:26-27.

The Fear Of The Lord

When we take part in a church or worship service, read God's Word, pray, or are at work, or at rest, **we must fear God, reverence Him, and treat God as Holy!** We should **respect and fear God at all times!** While we love God, we should also have The Fear Of The Lord. He is holy, and is to be greatly feared and appreciated.

Fear Of The Lord, means to have a profound reverence and awe of God, to venerate God, and to have proper fear and respect for Him. We should all tremble before Him. This is especially true of all those who **sin or rebel against Him**, those who **practice evil**, or those **who disbelieve** in God, or His Son, Jesus Christ.

Properly Fearing God will prevent sin. "And Moses said unto the people, **Fear not:** for God is come to prove you, and that his fear may be before your faces, that ye sin not." Exodus 20:20. "**God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all them that are about him.**" Psalm 89:7.

The Fear Of The Lord is essential in the life of every person who calls themselves a Christian, or a follower of Jesus Christ. How can we have a relationship with God, if we do not have fear and reverence? While God is to be feared, we, like Moses, must not be afraid to approach Him. See 1 John 4:18 and Hebrews 12:18-29.

All who fell, and became separated from God in The Bible, stopped regarding God as Holy, and broke from having a Fear Of The Lord. They disobeyed God, and stopped walking in The Fear Of The Lord by ignoring His Commands. Satan, Adam and Eve, Cain, Moses, Solomon, and many others **suffered greatly** when they failed to properly respect, fear, and reverence God. God is not mocked! When you mistreat your relationship with Him, there are serious consequences. **God is not pleased** when His People treat Him disrespectfully, or when they violate His commands. God wants us to sanctify and fear Him at all times, to regard Him as Holy.

"...I will be sanctified in them that come nigh me...before all the people I will be glorified..." Leviticus 10:3. "**The secret of the LORD is with them that fear him;** and he will shew them his covenant." Psalms 25:14. "**Ye shall walk after the LORD your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his voice, and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him.**" Deuteronomy 10:1. You shall revere and follow God. "He that hath my commandments, **and keepeth them,** he it is **that loveth me:** and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and **I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.**" John 14:21. We are to work out our salvation with fear and trembling. See Philippians 2:12, Isaiah 66:1-2,5, 2 Corinthians 7:1, Proverbs 8:13.

God's Presence is promised to them that love Him and keep His Commandments. The enemy of our souls is trying to get us to stop having a Holy Fear Of The Lord, and wants us to distrust and get offended by God. Also, he is sowing discord among the brethren, to try to keep them offended against one another, in disunity.

Always reverence, honor, fear, love, and worship God. Always treat God like The Special Person That He Is! No one else deserves the level of glory and honor that He does. Never treat Him **as common** or take Him **for granted!** He demands **respect, holy fear, and awe. Endure this life, never compromising, being faithful.**

Watch and **pray.** Perilous times are ahead, and many will fall away from the faith, being deceived. "And then **shall many be offended,** and shall **betray one another,** and shall hate one another. And many false prophets shall rise, **and shall deceive many.** And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. **But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.**" Matthew 24:10-13. See also Mark 13:13.

The Purity In Prayer

As we have discovered, prayer is communication with God, that is meant to take place **continually**. “Rejoice evermore. **Pray without ceasing.**” 1 Thessalonians 5:16-17. We **should pray**, or communicate with God, **all the time**: when we are alone, when we are busy doing our daily work, in the prayer closet, at the family altar, in groups of Believers gathered to pray, and in everywhere we go. The communion that God wants is through our fellowshiping with His Son, Jesus Christ. **We honor** Jesus, and God, when we always **believe in Them, without any doubting**. God, like every person, wants to be properly respected, appreciated, and believed. We keep ourselves pure, by departing from sin, when we maintain a Holy Fear Of The Lord. When we submit to God, and resist the devil, he must flee. Holy living is essential to experience a fulfilled life that glorifies God.

Whenever the enemy tries to get you to question or doubt God’s faithfulness, repel the enemy, and all doubt, with this Scripture, “**God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?**” Numbers 23:19. Many people **do not receive answers** to their prayers, because they ask amiss, seeking selfish pleasures, and things which only serve to pull them away from God, and **distract themselves** from properly seeking Christ. **Removing all mixture, compromise, and sin from our lives**, should be our top priority. How can we expect to be used mightily by God, if our vessels contain a mixture of purity and sin? We need to be careful what we **read, listen to, and watch, as well as what, and who, we yield ourselves to**. We should completely yield to God, and allow Jesus Christ, and The Holy Spirit, to do their cleansing, purifying, and perfecting work in us.

We should immerse ourselves in God’s Holy Word, and allow Jesus Christ to come alive in us, as we partake of Him through His Words, because He Is The Word Made Flesh. We should pray to The Heavenly Father in the name of Jesus Christ, as led by The Precious Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit knows exactly what we should pray for, and how we should pray. Ask for, and follow, **His Leading** at all times. **Honor God** with your time, talents, and your substance. Always respect, reverence, and appreciate Him, and seek His Perfect Direction. **Your prayer life must be developed**, and practiced regularly, if you are to grow in spiritual maturity. If you say that God has called you into ministry, yet you do not **spend time communing with Him in prayer**, you are probably not living up to the **full potential of service to others** that God has designed for you to walk in. Every church, ministry, business, or other endeavor **should be covered with much prayer**, so as to prosper.

Prayer is far from being a useless thing, but it is a mighty tool and weapon, that helps to stop the enemy, and also releases blessings and favor in our lives, **to accomplish the intended purpose which God has designed**. Prayer is a vehicle, that we are privileged to partake in, by which **we come into agreement with God’s Will**. It is our job to keep our vessels, and lives, clean from sin, and other forms of mixture and compromise, so we may maintain our covenant relationship with God, by demonstrating to God that we believe and have faith in Him, and in His Word, and showing that we have accepted **His Grace**, that He provided for us through Jesus.

Prayer rises up to God as incense. “**Let my prayer be set forth before thee as incense;...**” Psalm 141:2. When the priest in God’s Temple prepared the incense to be offered, it had to be pure, and offered properly. In the same manner, our prayers need to be prepared and offered in a manner that is pleasing to Father God. It is essential that we come before God in prayer with the right attitude, with humility and reverence to Him. We must remove all sin, and renew our minds by the washing of The Water Of God’s Word. “**That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word**, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; **but that it should be holy...**” Ephesians 5:26-27.

Everyone Can Pray, Everyone Can Give

Christian Believers have the awesome ability to communicate with God through prayer, and also the ability to give to advance the work of spreading and preaching The Gospel Of Jesus Christ to all parts of the world. Too often today, people become discouraged and frustrated, not knowing what they can do to serve, and please, God. No matter your age, where you live, or your marital or financial status, **every Believer can pray, and every Believer can give.**

God is seeking people who will actively do His Work in the earth. I have met too many people who profess to be Believers in Christ that complain that they feel worthless and can't accomplish much in life. They often have given up trying to discover their "ministry calling" or "gifting," and have settled into a rather mundane and non-eventful life, occupied by satisfying their flesh, and filling up their time with television, movies, and entertainment, instead of doing the work of the ministry which is given for every Believer to do.

Every Believer is called to pray for others, including those in authority over them. Since prayer changes things, we should always pray, and not faint. See Luke 18:1. God also loves a cheerful giver. See 2 Corinthians 9:6-7. When we give of our time, our talent, and our resources to help others, we please God. He has called us to love our neighbors, and to bless them.

The best way I know of, to be a blessing, and give to others, is to consistently live what you believe, shining forth His Hope and His Light, being a proper example for Christ. That way, others can see the benefits of coming to believe and have faith in Jesus Christ. Then they will desire to embrace The Gospel. The greatest gift you can give someone else is to share The Hope Of Jesus Christ, which when accepted and received properly, redeems them from all of their sins, and snatches them away from Hell.

Giving to Christian outreaches, churches, and ministries also is a great way of advancing The Gospel. Always **pray and seek discernment** from God about whom to support and bless with your time and finances. There is always more need than we can support ourselves, but we can **always pray** for God to send **more laborers and givers** to help accomplish His Work, of helping and reaching out to the hurting, the lonely, the deceived, and the forgotten. Find other like-minded Christians who believe in the power of unity and agreement in prayer, and in giving, to advance God's Kingdom. Put your faith into practice.