



Prayer

Discover the Power and the Secret
of Effective Fasting and Prayer

GUILLERMO MALDONADO



Our Mission

Called to bring the supernatural power of God to this generation.

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PRAYER

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OBJECTIVES

At the end of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Recognize and overcome prayer obstacles that prevent God's blessings from materializing in the life of the believer.
2. Know and practice the different types of prayers; these will enrich the believer's time of fellowship with God.
3. Develop a lifestyle of constant fasting and prayer.
4. Understand how a ministry of prayer and intercession can be initiated in the local church.

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this class is to help you, the reader, develop a close and intimate relationship with God. Because of it, as you read this manual, you will be able to discover a series of useful suggestions that will become a great blessing, if you choose to use them in your daily living.

You will also find a valuable treasure that will allow you to step into deeper levels of prayer and help you enjoy your prayer time.

Since prayer is not an option but a commandment for the believer, we must learn to develop strategies that improve our intimacy with God. This is essential and greatly needed to achieve the level of spiritual maturity that will help us to be successful, not only in our ministries, but in all facets of life.

CHAPTER I

Intimate Communion with God

Before we begin to develop, in detail, this study on prayer, it is necessary to emphasize the fundamental reason we pray, which is to have an intimate relationship with God. It is to know Him, His ways, why He does the things He does, and how He does them. If I were to say this in one phrase, I would have to say, it is to know God's deepest secrets. In this study, we will take a look at every principal aspect of prayer, beginning with an intimate communion with Him.

God's desire has always been to have intimate communion with His people. At the beginning of creation, in the book of Genesis, the Word teaches that God walked and talked with Adam in the Garden of Eden. However, when sin came, man also sinned against God, breaking his communion with Him. Now, man is unable to communicate with God because his spirit is in darkness. Because of man's downfall, God provided for his salvation by sending His Son, Jesus Christ, born of a virgin, to be crucified, raised on the third day, and who now sits at the right hand of the Father. Through His sacrifice, man's communion with the Father is restored once again. He removed our heart of stone and replaced it with a heart of flesh.

What is the main purpose of prayer?

There are many reasons, which we will deal with later, but the main reason prayer exists is to give us an opportunity to have communion with Him. Let us take a closer look at this subject.

What is communion?

The word communion in the Greek language is *koinonia*, meaning to have something in common, fellowship, participation, friendship, communication and dialogue. Therefore, communion with God is to have friendship, dialogue and fellowship with Him, establishing a close relationship, because this is His desire.

Who does God desire to have communion with?

- ♦ He desires to have intimate communion with those who fear Him.

"¹⁴The secret of the LORD is with those who fear Him, and He will show them His covenant." Psalms 25:14

What is fear of God?

The words, "fear of God" in Hebrew mean *feeling a terror to please Him and a terror of displeasing Him*. In modern terminology, the words "fear of God" can be defined as *loving everything God loves and hating everything God hates*.

What does God hate?

Following is a list of seven sins the Bible teaches that God hates:

"¹⁶These six things the LORD hates, yes, seven are an abomination to Him: ¹⁷A proud look, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, ¹⁸a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that are swift in running to evil, ¹⁹a false witness who speaks lies, and one who sows discord among brethren." Proverbs 6:16-19

- ✓ A _____ ⁽¹⁾ look.
 - ✓ A _____ ⁽²⁾ tongue.
 - ✓ Hands that shed _____ ⁽³⁾ blood.
 - ✓ A heart that devises _____ ⁽⁴⁾ plans.
 - ✓ Feet that swiftly run to _____ ⁽⁵⁾.
 - ✓ The _____ ⁽⁶⁾ witness who speaks lies.
 - ✓ One who sows _____ ⁽⁷⁾ among the brethren.
- ♦ His communion is also with the _____ ⁽⁸⁾. The word "righteous" in Hebrew is *yashar*, which means *direct, straight, right before God's eyes, not double minded and morally correct*.

If we were to apply this to our daily living, we could say: intimate communion with the Lord is with those who are morally honorable, who hunger and thirst for righteousness, and who are blameless before Him.

Communion with Him is our priority

Our communion and relationship with God is priceless and should be a priority in our lives.

What is a moral value?

A moral value or standard is a biblical _____ ⁽⁹⁾ we practice daily. If our relationship with God is a moral value in our lives, then we should be seeking His face and praying every day. For example, we understand that physical exercise is good for us and establish it as being a moral value in our lives, but if we do not practice it, it is not a moral value. Our relationship with God is the same way; we should never walk

out of our homes without first spending time with Him. Prayer teaches us to be totally dependent on Him.

What is a priority?

A priority is anything to which we give first place, in order of importance; it is that which is most productive and beneficial to us. For example, when prayer is a priority, it implies that before any other responsibility (family and church, among many), we make the effort to have communion with Him.

Communion with God is very important; through it, we communicate with Him. You know someone loves you when they say it; there is great power and action behind these words. Communication is part of God's nature, His desire is to have fellowship with us and to share with us His will and purpose.

The first calling of every believer is to have an intimate communion with God. This is the number one priority and the most difficult one to keep because those who are around do not help in any way to be closer to Him; rather, they become angry when they are not the center of attention.

"One thing is necessary"

*"³⁸Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. ³⁹And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word. ⁴⁰But Martha was **distracted** with much serving, and she approached Him and said, 'Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me.' ⁴¹And Jesus answered and said to her, 'Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. ⁴²But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.'" Luke 10:38-42*

The word "distracted" means *to be absorbed or going around in circles*. There are different theories based on this part of Scripture. Some think we must have Martha and Mary in the body of Christ, one to serve and the other to be spiritual. However, I personally believe, according to what Jesus says and does concerning Martha, that we do not need this type of Martha in the church because Jesus, in no way, approves her kind of service.

We understand that serving God is important, but not the way Martha does it, where service comes before our relationship with God. Martha says to Jesus, "Tell her to help me." It is human nature to judge others according to our measure of service or commitment, while others do not serve using these same criteria. Martha complains to

Jesus that Mary is not helping her, but His response is, "Martha, Martha..." When Jesus calls someone by name, not once, but twice, He does it for two reasons: to express His _____⁽¹⁰⁾ towards that person and to _____⁽¹¹⁾ and correct. *One thing is necessary*, to be in communion with God, to feel His love and have an intimate relationship with Him. When we feel His love we are self-assured, we rejoice in the success of others and we do not covet or feel envy towards others.

Jesus' prayer life and His communion with the Father

Let us analyze His prayer life and learn from Him.

"¹²Now it came to pass in those days that He went out to the mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God." Luke 6:12

"²³And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there." Matthew 14:23

We must understand the nature of His prayer. He prayed all the time, and even though He was the Son of God, He had a close relationship with the Father. His prayers were all for Him; prayer was a moral value and a priority in His life.

When did Jesus pray?

- ♦ Jesus prayed in the _____⁽¹²⁾. His morning prayers show us that His priority was to spend time in communion with the Father; this was the first thing He did.

"³⁵Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed." Mark 1:35

- ♦ Jesus prayed at _____⁽¹³⁾. After spending time ministering, praying for the sick, casting out demons, and preaching the Word, Jesus knew He was left empty because He had given everything He had. This is the reason He prayed.

"¹²Now it came to pass in those days that He went out to the mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God." Luke 6:12

- ♦ Jesus prayed in the _____⁽¹⁴⁾. Once again, it is clear that Jesus had an attitude of prayer all day long.

"²³And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there." Matthew 14:23

There are a few questions we might ask concerning Jesus' prayer life:

- ♦ Did Jesus pray with anybody? He prayed _____⁽¹⁵⁾, separate from everybody, and with His _____⁽¹⁶⁾. We should also have time alone with God and time of prayer with others.

²⁸Now it came to pass, about eight days after these sayings, that He took Peter, John, and James and went up on the mountain to pray. ²⁹As He prayed, the appearance of His face was altered, and His robe became white and glistening." Luke 9:28, 29

- ♦ Where did He pray? He would separate Himself from the crowds to pray in the _____⁽¹⁷⁾, the valley or in the _____⁽¹⁸⁾. These days, people do not enjoy prayer if they are uncomfortable, but Jesus prayed regardless of the circumstances or the weather; He prayed anywhere.

¹⁶So He Himself often withdrew into the wilderness and prayed." Luke 5:16

Some people think that Jesus had a special air conditioned room where He went to pray, but this is not the case. He prayed in the desert, where nights are cold and the days are hot.

- ♦ How long did Jesus pray? He prayed from one hour to all night long. He also prayed during the day. His prayer life went from one to eight hours a day, as far as we can learn from Scripture.

What did Jesus pray? The _____⁽¹⁹⁾ Prayer

¹Now it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, that one of His disciples said to Him, 'Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.'" Luke 11:1

The example that Jesus gave of a prayer is a guide for us to follow when we pray and not words to be repeated over and over again.

What did Jesus teach His disciples concerning prayer? When we take a close look at Jesus' prayer life, we can conclude the following: He was in constant prayer, at all times, and He did it everywhere He was. He prayed for long periods of time, alone, apart from people, or with His disciples. Prayer (communion with His Father) was a priority, a moral value in His life. If communion with God was a priority to Jesus, then how much more should it be for us?

What are the benefits to having a close relationship with God?

- ♦ We will have _____ (20)

"²¹Now acquaint yourself with Him, and be at peace; thereby good will come to you." Job 22:21

The word "peace" in Hebrew is *shalom*, meaning *to be sure, complete, strengthened, prosperous and in abundance*. In other words, this verse is telling us that our peace is the result of a close relationship with Him. Absence of peace with God is the result of a weak prayer life.

- ♦ Signs and _____ (21)

"³²Those who do wickedly against the covenant he shall corrupt with flattery; but the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits." Daniel 11:32

The word "know", in Hebrew, is *yada*, meaning *to have intimacy with, or have intimate relationships with*. The idea behind this word is easily understood when two people rest their heads on a pillow and are able to see each other face to face, making it possible to speak. From the previous verse, we can conclude that people having close relationships with God can stand firm and perform signs and wonders. What is the conclusion? God is only able to do signs and wonders, daring feats, and miracles through us if we have a close relationship with Him. This is why there are only a few men and women through whom God is able to do great wonders; the others have lost their communion with Him and have been doing the work on their own strength. When the apostles were threatened to stop preaching, the only thing they asked for was boldness. The Greek word for *boldness* is *parresia*, which means to speak with boldness and courage. For anyone to do powerful things for God, it is necessary to have boldness, audacity and the courage to speak.

Audacity, boldness and to speak with courage is a virtue that comes as a result of our close relationship with God and not from human effort.

- ♦ We will be _____ (22) and _____ (23)

"²⁵For I have satiated the weary soul, and I have replenished every sorrowful soul." Jeremiah 31:25

When Jesus spoke, He said, "blessed". This is the Greek word *makarios*, which means *blessed, joyful to be sent forth, spiritually prosperous, alive, with joy and peace, and completely satisfied with God's favor regardless of adverse circumstances*. If Jesus said these things about us, then we need to ask ourselves,

“Why are many believers feeling dissatisfied and incomplete?” The answer is because they lack the completeness and satisfaction that comes from having a close relationship with God.

How can we establish a close relationship with God?

- ♦ We must _____⁽²⁴⁾ ourselves before His presence.

When we humble ourselves before the presence of God, we are recognizing that our relationship was lacking intimacy and that we are in need of His grace and favor to be able to accomplish the things which He is asking us to do. When we humble ourselves, we are also recognizing that we are weak and that most of what we have accomplished has been done with human strength and without depending on Him.

“¹⁴if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.” 2 Chronicles 7:14

- ♦ We must begin to _____⁽²⁵⁾ immediately.

“²¹Now acquaint yourself with Him, and be at peace; thereby good will come to you. ²²Receive, please, instruction from His mouth, And lay up His words in your heart. ²³If you return to the Almighty, you will be built up; you will remove iniquity far from your tents. ²⁴Then you will lay your gold in the dust, and the gold of Ophir among the stones of the brooks. ²⁵Yes, the Almighty will be your gold and your precious silver; ²⁶for then you will have your delight in the Almighty, and lift up your face to God. ²⁷You will make your prayer to Him, He will hear you, and you will pay your vows.” Job 22:21-27

- ♦ We must seek His _____⁽²⁶⁾

The expression “seek My face” means to *investigate, inquire into, to ascertain, to seek something with diligence, to desperately look for something*. I feel that the body of Christ only seeks God in the way mentioned above, for instance, when they are going through crisis or experiencing persecution. Until such a time of desperate need, they sit comfortably and don't bother to seek Him wholeheartedly. The perfect example of someone who seeks God desperately is David, as the following verse reveals:

“¹As the deer pants for the water brooks, so pants my soul for You, O God. ²My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God? Psalms 42:1, 2

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"¹O God, You are my God; early will I seek You; my soul thirsts for You; my flesh longs for You in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water. ²So I have looked for You in the sanctuary, to see Your power and glory. ³Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise You." Psalms 63:1-3

CHAPTER II

The Purpose of Prayer

What is the purpose of prayer? One problem that I see in the body of Christ is the absence of prayer. The meeting with the lowest attendance rate is the prayer meeting. Therefore, we need to ask ourselves, "Why aren't people praying?" I believe the answer is found in the following two reasons:

- ✓ People do not understand the _____⁽²⁷⁾ of prayer.

What is the purpose of prayer?

Before we answer this question, we must first define the word *purpose*, which means the original intention for which something was created.

- ✓ People do not pray because they don't see satisfactory _____⁽²⁸⁾.

When we ignore the reason for prayer, the desire to do it is automatically lost. In view of this, the results of prayer are negative or non-existent because we pray without understanding why we should do it.

Why should we pray? If God is powerful and does whatever He wants, then what is the purpose of prayer? Why should we pray if God is sovereign and does what He pleases? Why should we pray if God is unaffected by what we do? Why should we pray if God knows everything? Why should we pray if God controls and pre-determines everything? What is the reason for prayer, if the devil has already been defeated? Why pray for the lost if it is God's will that we should all be saved?

These are valid questions, and to answer them we must first understand the true nature of God and His desire for humanity. Understanding who God is will guide us to the purpose of prayer. God is a God of purpose. Everything He created on earth, including man, was created to fulfill His purpose.

Three main reasons why God created man:

- ✓ Man was created to reflect God's _____⁽²⁹⁾ and to have a close relationship with Him.

²⁶Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the

cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."
Genesis 1:26

- ✓ God created humanity to fulfill His plans, His _____⁽³⁰⁾ and His will on earth.

God created man in His image and gave him the ability to choose and make decisions for himself. This means that man was given free will to take action and to fulfill the will of God on earth.

- ✓ God created man to have _____⁽³¹⁾ over all things.

How did God give man the ability to take dominion?

First, God created man with a spirit that came directly from Him; hence, the human race had no choice but to govern the physical world. God gave man a physical body, which is manifested in two genders: masculine and feminine. Man is the only created being that can take dominion of the earth. If something does not have a body and soul, it is illegal. It was precisely because of this reason that God had to come to earth in a physical body. Therefore, there are three things He established from the beginning, as we read in Genesis 1.26.

- ✓ God is sovereign, as His Word is sovereign.
- ✓ God limits Himself with His Word. He is unable to go beyond what He has said or established.
- ✓ God never violates His own Word. Everything God declares is law.

Prayer was created and limited by the Word. God established in His Word that for something to be done on earth, it must be done through a physical body and through the spirit.

God is not able to come to earth without a physical body. If He were to do this, He would be contradicting Himself and His Word.

"¹⁵And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel." Genesis 3:15

How did God enter the earth with a physical body?

God became Emmanuel which means "God with us."

God essentially said, "I need a physical body because I need to come to earth legally. In simpler terms, God said to the devil, "The woman will be your worst nightmare."

God does not use us because we are intelligent, indispensable or great. God uses us because He is trapped and limited by His own Word.

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



*God is looking for someone who lives in a physical body
to stand in the gap for His people and pray.*



“³⁰So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one.” Ezekiel 22:30

Many of God’s plans and purposes may never be fulfilled here on earth because there is no one to intercede; there is no one who will take the time to pray for His plans and for His perfect will to be done. Prayer is not an option; it is a must. They did not ask to be taught how to perform miracles or cast out demons, they asked to be taught how to pray. Why? Because they saw what was happening in the life of Jesus and they understood that everything that He was able to accomplish had to do with His total dependence on His Father through prayer. The disciples knew the secret to His success; it was His prayer life.

Jesus’ secret to the success of His ministry was His prayer life.

Jesus would pray for five hours and later only needed two seconds to heal the blind man. I want you to notice the following principle: Jesus spent hours doing one thing and seconds doing another. We do things the other way around: spend a few minutes with God and later take many hours ministering to the people, in His name.



*Hours spent with God make the time
we spend with people more effective.*



What is needed for God to do His will on earth?

A man or woman that is available.

“⁸Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: ‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?’ Then I said, ‘Here am I! Send me.’” Isaiah 6:8

CHAPTER III

What is Prayer and Why do We Need to Pray?

In my daily walk with God, I have read many books on the subject of prayer. Some of these books were very good; others were filled with concepts and ideas that are contrary to the true meaning of prayer. Before I can teach you what prayer is, I must first define what prayer is not.

⁽³²⁾ is not...

Prayer is not a monologue or a vain repetition of words: this type of "prayer" is nothing more than worthless chatter. Prayer is not something we do to fulfill some type of quota with God nor is it a religious exercise. Prayer is not asking God for favor, or a way to escape a guilty conscience. Prayer is not like a 911 call that we might make when our lives are on fire and are in need of a "fireman" to extinguish the flames or to help us in our hour of need. In Matthew 6:7 it says, *"And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions..."* This verse is clear as to what Jesus thinks about vain repetition.

The more we learn about what prayer is not, the clearer it becomes that we have been practicing vain repetition for a long time. We have not chosen to pray in line with God's heart or His Word. We have had a great deal of conversations or monologues with ourselves. Therefore, we have not been able to see any positive results to our prayers. Now that we understand this concept, we should meditate on the following:

What is prayer?

Prayer is a conversation or a dialogue between our spirit and God. It is the direct communication between our spirit and the Heavenly Father. The reason I am emphasizing the fact that it is between our spirit and God is because God is Spirit, and we talk and pray to Him with our spirit.

"²³But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. ²⁴God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." John 4:23, 24

Why is it difficult for believers to pray?

This is a very popular question among believers throughout the world. Prayer is a spiritual exercise that is hard to accomplish because it implies that we must be disciplined in that area before we can achieve positive results. There are several

reasons why believers have a hard time establishing the daily habit of prayer that is continuous and persevering. Let us go to the book of Matthew and meditate on Jesus' words.

- ✓ The flesh is _____ (33)

"A1 Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." Matthew 26:41

All of us need to understand that our flesh is weak. The old man and the old nature, that which we used to be, does not enjoy prayer. Our body is always tired, it wants to sleep longer, it refuses to wake up early and it is always finding ways to excuse the fact that it does not want to pray.

- ✓ The _____ (34) are never equivalent to the time we invest in prayer. For some time, many of us have been praying for the same things without ceasing and without any evidence that our prayers have been heard. When we see no results to our prayers, we give up and stop praying.
- ✓ Prayer is an _____ (35). Sometimes we have to invest a lot of our time in prayer in order to see great results. Do not expect to receive great rewards instantaneously when we only invest a few minutes in prayer. To receive answers to our needs, we must invest a lot of our time in prayer and we must do it continually until we obtain the victory.
- ✓ Because we have no idea how to pray for _____ (36) periods of time. One reason why many people find it difficult to pray is because after five or ten minutes they run out of words to say. They are at a loss as to what to say next, and instead of persevering in prayer, they give up, feeling frustrated.
- ✓ We do not _____ (37) the subject of prayer. There is lack of understanding on how to ask God for something, what to do when God speaks to us and how to pray in line with God's Word. Also, not knowing how to pray in the spirit and a total lack of understanding as to the meaning of prayer can frustrate us, leaving us with the final outcome, which is to give up our desire to pray.

What is the proper physical posture for prayer?

The Word of God does not command us to assume a specific physical position that we should pray in, although the Scriptures do mention different physical positions which we can assume during a determined period of time, such as: on our knees, standing, sitting, laying prostrate before His presence, and others. A survey was held in which three thousand leaders within the United States, including Pastors, Evangelists, Apostles

and Prophets were asked about their personal prayer time and how much time they actually invested in prayer. To everyone's surprise, the survey demonstrated that seventy percent prayed for only thirty minutes a day or less; twenty percent prayed approximately forty five minutes or less; and ten percent prayed at least an hour daily.

If the spiritual condition of our leadership is weak and feeble, then the spiritual condition of those under our responsibility is worse than ours. I strongly believe that the time has come to pray endlessly, to seek His face wholeheartedly, and to stop talking about prayer and actually put it into practice.

Why is prayer a _____ (38)?

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

Why should we pray if God is sovereign over all things and He does whatever He wants to do and wherever He wants to do it?

If the Word declares that before we open our mouths, God has already heard our needs, then why should we pray? If Satan and his followers have already been defeated, and Jesus has authority, then why should we pray against the enemy? Why do we have to carry the burden for others if God has done everything that needs to be done? Why should I pray? If the Word of God establishes that it is His will that all men be saved, then, why do we have to pray for the lost souls? The answers to all of these questions can be found in Scripture. We will now answer all of these questions in the clearest and simplest way possible. To begin with, there are many biblical reasons why God wants us to invest time in prayer. Another way to say this is: there are various reasons that explain the need for prayer, such as:

✓ God operates through _____ (39).

Let us go back for a moment and take a look at how it was at the beginning of creation. God created man and called him Adam, which means "humanity", a human being, a man made of flesh and bones and the one to whom God gave total dominion and lordship over His creation. God wants His perfect will to be done through humanity.

*"²⁶ Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."
Genesis 1:26*

Man is the administrator or God's representative on earth. Therefore, he is responsible to execute God's dominion and authority; God uses man to do His job. Don't lose sight of the fact that God can do anything, in heaven and on earth, without anyone's help, but it pleases Him to use man, with his imperfection, flaws and weaknesses. God knows that man will inevitably make mistakes, but He still works out His plans and purpose through the prayer of the righteous in Christ.

"Surely the Lord GOD does nothing, unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets." Amos 3:7

There are many plans and projects of God that have yet to be fulfilled because there is a shortage of men and women who are willing to give birth to these in the spirit.

- ✓ God is looking for a _____⁽⁴⁰⁾ with which to enjoy a close relationship.

One of the many reasons why we need to pray is because God wants to have a family with whom He can enjoy a close relationship. He wants children with whom He can relate and have intimacy with. He wants to talk to them, walk with them, and develop closeness with them, as we learned in the beginning of the book.

"The secret of the LORD is with those who fear Him, and He will show them His covenant." Psalms 25:14

- ✓ For _____⁽⁴¹⁾ to be done on earth.

"Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven." Luke 11:2

Through prayer, God has fulfilled His will on earth; for everything that has already been done, first, someone had to ask God for it.

- ✓ Prayer gives God _____⁽⁴²⁾ to change the will of man.

It is through prayer that God can deal with, and change, a person who does not want to change his own condition. When prayers are lifted for that particular person, God begins to touch and stir that person, even when this person _____⁽⁴³⁾ to change. God is not violating the individual's free will or his right to choose, neither is He forcing this person to do something against his will. The way that God will touch this stubborn, hardheaded person who refuses to change is by infusing him with the desire to will and to do; this was something that was not there before. Usually, after someone prays, that particular person begins to have a desire to change. Only God can do this through the prayer of a righteous man or woman.

*"¹³for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure."
Philippians 2:13*

Illustration: "Take the horse for a ride"

Once, there was a life insurance salesman who went to speak with his employer. He was very upset. He said to his boss, "I couldn't sell anything. None of the people that I visited wanted to buy any insurance. And, if you really think about it, I can't force them to buy anything." His boss answered, "You can take a horse to water, but you can't make him drink. However, you can take him for a long ride until he gets thirsty enough, then he will be the one to look for water himself." This is the same thing that happens to those people who do not know the Lord or refuse to do His will. We can't force them to seek God, but we can pray for them to receive the desire to do it. That is to say, we can take them for a long spiritual run through prayer. Sooner or later, they will be thirsty enough to look for the rivers of living water.

✓ _____ (44)

"³⁰So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one." Ezekiel 22:30

Intercessors are people who are willing to stand in the gap for others, as mediators between God and humanity.

✓ _____ (45)

Worshippers open the door for God's glory to descend. While the intercessors plow the earth, the worshippers make the rain come upon the land.

▶ Prayer helps you to resist _____ (46)

"⁴¹Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." Matthew 26:41

▶ Prayer is the means that we use to lay down our _____ (47) before God.

"⁷casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you." 1 Peter 5:7

"⁶Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God." Philippians 4:6

PRAYER

God gave us the gift of prayer for us to use it as a way to cast all of our cares, our problems and worries upon Him. Many people carry a heavy load all of the time because their prayer life is practically non-existent, hence they have not laid down their burdens before God.

CHAPTER IV

Biblical Principles for Effective Prayer

Sometimes, our prayers are not answered because we are missing an essential biblical foundation regarding how to pray effectively. When we are not clear on what it takes to pray effectively, we end up throwing punches in the air, hoping to hit the bull's eye. This happens when we are ignorant as to how to pray effectively. In this chapter, you will learn a few biblical principles for effective prayer, and when you implement these principles in your prayer life, you will begin to see great results.

1. Pray to the Father in the name of _____ (48)

This principle involves the Father and the name of Jesus. When our Lord was physically present among us, He taught that every prayer should be directed to the Father in His name, the name of Jesus.

"²³And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you. ²⁴Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full." John 16:23, 24

Who is the _____ (49)?

The Father is the first person of the Trinity or Deity. The word "Father" in Greek is *Pater*, which means *founder, protector, provider, source, progenitor, leader, cultivator, and one who provides nourishment*. The Hebrew word for Father is *Abba*, which means daddy. This word, when it is spoken, expresses a very profound love and tenderness towards God.

Why did Jesus say to ask anything of the Father in His name? Throughout Scripture, God introduces himself to His prophets by His given name because for the Hebrews, in the Old Testament, the name represented who the person was and what he had. One such example is found in Moses:

"¹⁴And God said to Moses, 'I AM WHO I AM.' And He said, 'Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, I AM has sent me to you.'" Exodus 3:14

God's name is "I am that I am" which is translated from the Hebrew "YHVH", and translated into English from the Latin as Jehovah. The meaning of this name is so profound that it is difficult to explain. This name represents all that God is, His glory, power and majesty.

What is the meaning of the name YHVH? It means one who lives, one who has life or exists by His own will. In simpler terms, the meaning of His name is: "I am that I am, I am whom I will be, I am who was, I am the one who exists and shall exist out of my own will to live." He is the God who embraces all of the verbal conjugations and the One who holds time in His hands.

We could continue to try and explain the meaning of everything that God is with human terminology, but it would be impossible. If we were to give it a modern definition, we could say: "I am God, or the everlasting being and I will reveal myself to those who need me." As you read, keep in mind that in the Hebrew tradition, the name represents the nature and character of the individual. Our God, and Father Jehovah, revealed Himself through the following revelations of His name **YHVH**:

The name of Jesus is exalted

In the New Testament, God deposits His power and authority into one name, and the twelve main revelations of His name, found in the Old Testament, God also placed in one name: _____⁽⁵⁰⁾. Everything in heaven and earth has a name, but the name of Jesus is above them all.

"⁹Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name." Philipians 2:9

"²¹far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come." Ephesians 1:21

What does the name Jesus mean?

The name *Jesus* or *Jeshua* means: Jehovah is salvation. The word salvation, in the New Testament, is the Greek word *soteria*, which means salvation, healing, deliverance, protection, prosperity, strength and security. These words represent who He is, the living God who lives in the eternal present, as is His name, "I am that I am."

When we mention the name of Jesus, we are really saying that Jehovah is saving, healing, delivering, protecting, prospering and strengthening. The reason why the name of Jesus has so much power and authority is because He is _____⁽⁵¹⁾. All other beings such as Buddha, Mohammed, and others, were only flesh and bone. Jesus is the only one who is one hundred percent God and one hundred percent man. God does not exalt the name of ordinary men, He exalts His own name.

Why did God name His Son, Jesus?

- ♦ Jesus received His name because He _____⁽⁵²⁾ Himself. He took the form of a servant and was obedient unto death.

"⁵Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, ⁷but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross." Philippians 2:5-8

- ♦ Jesus _____⁽⁵³⁾ His name.

"²...has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds." Hebrews 1:2

- ♦ Jesus received His name because He was _____⁽⁵⁴⁾.

"¹⁴having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. ¹⁵Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it." Colossians 2:14, 15

How can we apply the name of Jesus during prayer?

Every prayer that you lift before the Father, in the name of Jesus, will be answered. When we ask in His name, it is as if Jesus Himself was asking the Father. Jesus guarantees and answers all of our prayers. Therefore, ask, and then ask again, and you will receive the things that you need.

Authority in God's name

- ♦ There is _____⁽⁵⁵⁾ in the name of Jesus.

"¹²Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." Acts 4:12

- ♦ There is _____⁽⁵⁶⁾ in the name of Jesus.

"¹⁶And His name, through faith in His name, has made this man strong, whom you see and know. Yes, the faith which comes through Him has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all." Acts 3:16

- ♦ There is _____⁽⁵⁷⁾ in the name of Jesus.

"¹⁷And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues." Mark 16:17

Who has legal rights or authority to use the name of Jesus?

- ♦ Every _____⁽⁵⁸⁾ believer.

"¹²But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name." John 1:12

What is authority?

_____⁽⁵⁹⁾ is the Greek word *exousia*, which means legal rights, delegated to exercise dominion and lordship. God has granted every born again believer legal rights, or legal power to exercise authority and power in His name. What is power? It is the divine ability to accomplish anything. We, as believers, have authority and divine power to use the name of Jesus and to accomplish anything that is in line with God's Word. Let us examine what happened to certain unbelievers who tried to use the name of Jesus.

"¹³Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists took it upon themselves to call the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, "We exorcise you by the Jesus whom Paul preaches." ¹⁴Also there were seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, who did so. ¹⁵And the evil spirit answered and said, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?" ¹⁶Then the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, overpowered them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded." Acts 19:13-16

The name of Jesus has authority in three places:

_____⁽⁶⁰⁾. There are three levels of heaven. The first level is what we see outside with our physical eyes. The second level is where the stars and planets are found. The third level of heaven is where God lives. The name of Jesus has power and authority in every level of heaven.

_____⁽⁶¹⁾. This is the place where we live. The name of Jesus has power and authority over everything that is on it.

_____⁽⁶²⁾ the earth. Deep within the earth is where we find hell. There is no place in this universe where the name of Jesus does not have power and authority. When we speak the name of Jesus, heaven and its inhabitants obey. The

galaxies and planets obey. Hell and its inhabitants, demons and those who died without Christ, must also obey His name. Every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord and every knee shall bow at the mention of His name.

Following are a few testimonies that demonstrate the power and authority that is in the name of Jesus:

- ♦ A missionary in Mexico was assaulted by a thief who stole everything he was carrying. When the missionary began to walk away, the thief pointed his gun at him threatening to shoot. Immediately, the missionary pointed at the thief and said, "In the name of Jesus, I order you to drop your weapon." Instantly, the man fell to his knees, dropped the gun and received Jesus as Lord. He also received the baptism of the Holy Spirit and returned what he had stolen.
- ♦ A man was eating at home when he suffered a heart attack. He died instantly. When his wife walked through the door and saw what had happened, she started to pray, demanding, in the name of Jesus, for her husband to return to earth. At that moment, the man opened his eyes. Later, the husband recalled the moment when he was traveling to heaven. He said that he heard a resounding voice that said, "I order you, in the name of Jesus, to return to earth." The husband says that at that moment, Jesus looked at him, smiled and said, "You must return to earth because my daughter is exercising faith in my name and I have to honor her." Praise God, there is power and authority in His name!
- ♦ In Cuenca, Ecuador, while I was praying for the sick, I spoke to a woman and said, "Get up in the name of Jesus." Suddenly, this woman stood up and started to walk. Jesus healed her instantly.
- ♦ In Miami, Florida, during a miracle and healing crusade, I was led by the Holy Spirit to pray for nine people who were sitting in wheel chairs. When I said, "Rise up and walk," seven of the nine people stood up and walked.
- ♦ I have been a witness to many miracle healings such as cancer, cysts, arthritis, tumors and the miracle of blind eyes being healed. There is power in the name of Jesus. Your prayer life will change drastically when you begin to exercise your faith in the name of Jesus.

How can you _____⁽⁶³⁾ your faith in the name of Jesus?

"¹⁶And His name, through faith in His name, has made this man strong, whom you see and know. Yes, the faith which comes through Him has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all." Acts 3:16

Every believer has a _____⁽⁶⁴⁾ check made out in his name. The only thing left to do before cashing it is to fill out what he needs. Make a list of the things that you desire, and ask the Father, in the name of Jesus, anything that is in line with His Word, and these things shall be done for you.

While in Honduras, I delivered a message on how the name of Jesus is like a blank check at our disposal. I said that we can ask God for anything that we want, as long as it is in line with His Word, and He will grant that which we asked for. While I was preaching, a lady approached me and said, "I suffer from asthma, arthritis and myopia." I stopped the teaching and prayed for her; she was instantly healed from these three infirmities. After praying for her, she said something that impacted my life. She said, "I knew I had a blank check at my disposal, that is the reason why I wrote everything that I needed on that check and God healed me."

2. Be _____⁽⁶⁵⁾ when you pray

We have learned that the first principle of effective prayer is to pray to the Father in the name of Jesus. The second principle is to be specific when we pray. One downfall of the believer is that he has not learned to be specific when he prays. God teaches us that we must be specific because it is His desire to please us, even in small details. Now that we understand this concept, the next time we pray, we will be specific in our request, and He will answer accordingly. If you do not follow this principle, you take the risk of doubting that God will answer your prayer, and he who doubts should not expect to receive anything of the Lord. The amplified Bible says:

⁶Only it must be in faith that he asks with no wavering (no hesitating, no doubting). For the one who wavers (hesitates, doubts) is like the billowing surge out at sea that is blown hither and thither and tossed by the wind. ⁷For truly, let not such a person imagine that he will receive anything [he asks for] from the Lord,⁸[For being as he is] a man of two minds (hesitating, dubious, irresolute), [he is] unstable and unreliable and uncertain about everything [he thinks, feels, decides]." James 1:6-8

My personal testimony on how to be specific when you pray:

Twelve years ago, my wife and I did not own a house, but one night we agreed on the style of house that we both wanted and asked the Lord to give it to us with the following specifications: three bedrooms, two baths, a large patio, it had to be located near the children's school and close to the highway. The purchase price had to be between eighty and one hundred thousand dollars. The last thing that my wife asked was for the house to have a special type of plant that produces a big red flower, and this plant had to be located at the front of the house. After we stood in

agreement and prayed for the house, we waited for a year. One day, we received a phone call about a house that was for sale, and I went to see it. God confirmed that this house was the answer to our prayer. To our surprise, the house contained three bedrooms, two baths and a large patio. Also, the house was located near a school and the highway. Not only that, but the purchase price was exactly what we had asked for, and the house had a beautiful plant that produced red flowers.

3. Approach God in _____⁽⁶⁶⁾

One reason why many believers are unable to develop a strong prayer life, without ceasing or discouragement, is because they do not experience any physical manifestations when they pray. It is important to keep in mind that when we pray we will not always have a physical awareness that anything is happening. Sometimes, we can feel God's presence, but this does not happen all of the time. Then what should we do? We should pray by faith and not by emotions.

"⁶⁶But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him." Hebrews 11:6

4. Ask the _____⁽⁶⁷⁾ for help

I personally believe that our prayer life would be empty, mechanical, and without life, if it were not for the help that we receive from the Holy Spirit. It is imperative that we ask the Holy Spirit to help us when we pray; otherwise, we would be praying on our own strength, independent from God.

"²⁶Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered." Romans 8:26

First, we need to meditate on the following key words: "*Likewise the Spirit.*" In the amplified Bible it says, "*the Spirit Himself.*" These words imply that if we surrender our will, when we pray, He will take control of our prayer, and thus, our prayer will become effective.

The verse also says, "*The Spirit also helps.*" The word *help* in Greek is *antilambano*, which means to take the place of, one who takes us by the hand, together with or against someone. This is an indication that the Holy Spirit takes us by the hand and leads us to the Father in the name of Jesus. He takes our place, and when we pray against our enemy, He guides and helps us.

"...the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses." These words are also interesting and worthy to point out because as was previously mentioned, one obstacle that we face, which discourages us from seeking God in prayer, is our weak flesh. We do not want to take time to pray nor do we have the desire to do it. When we feel like this, the Holy Spirit takes over. We need to invite Him into our prayer time and ask for His help. One thing that I do before beginning my personal prayer time is to invite the Comforter to help me to pray. When I do this, my prayers become effective, dynamic and the presence of God fills me.

Why do we have to ask the Holy Spirit to help us?

In Romans 8:26 it says, *"For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought."* Most of the time, we do not comprehend how to pray or what to pray for. For this reason, it is imperative that we ask the Holy Spirit to help us, because He knows God's will for His children. When we pray in line with His will, we will receive the answer to our prayers.

What should we do before we start praying?

Before we begin to ask God for anything, we need to invite the Holy Spirit to help us to pray and to show us the Father's heart and His will. Also, we need to invite Him to take control of our personal agenda for the day.

5. Pray in line with God's _____⁽⁶⁸⁾

God does not answer our prayers simply because we have a specific need. He answers our petitions when we pray in line with His Word.

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

What do the words *"according to His will"* mean? When we pray according to His will, we are asking God for something according to His Word and what it says. When we do this, we are guaranteed to have our prayers answered.

Why do we have to pray according to His will?

- ♦ Because God will only _____⁽⁶⁹⁾ by His Word.

"³⁵Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away."
Matthew 24:35

When we pray in line with His Word, God is obligated to fulfill His promises. This is why we can hold fast to His Word, because it is like a firm anchor to our soul. God is real and truthful to His Word; if we ask in line with His will, He will do for us what we ask of Him.

"¹²Then the LORD said to me, "You have seen well, for I am ready to perform My word." Jeremiah 1:12

Sometimes we are quick to believe the word of a mere man. For instance, when we are searching for employment, we fill out the application form and turn it over to the supervisor. This man tells you that you have been hired and to return the following week to begin to work. You leave his office rejoicing because you were hired for the job. You know you will receive \$500.00 in wages a week because the supervisor tells you, and you begin to plan how you will spend your check. To plan your spending spree, you did not ask the supervisor how much money was in his bank account nor did you ask to see the money that he had on hand. If so, what are you basing your trust in? You are basing your trust on the word of a man (the supervisor) who told you that you were hired and that you would receive \$500.00 a week. Now, I ask you a question: "If you can trust the word of a man made of flesh and bone, with weaknesses and defects, how much more should you trust in God's Word and on His promises? Trust that what He has promised, He will do because He is faithful.

"⁴Certainly not! Indeed, let God be true but every man a liar." Romans 3:4

"²⁰For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us." 2 Corinthians 1:20

Another reason we must pray in line with His Word is:

- ♦ God's integrity and reputation.

If God does not answer our prayers, His integrity and reputation are at stake. Therefore, He will fulfill everything that He has promised that He will do. The following verses clearly show that God will keep His word:

"¹⁴and they will tell it to the inhabitants of this land. They have heard that You, LORD, are among these people; that You, LORD, are seen face to face and Your cloud stands above them, and You go before them in a pillar of cloud by day and in a pillar of fire by night. ¹⁵Now if You kill these people as one man, then the nations which have heard of Your fame will speak, saying, ¹⁶'because the LORD was not able to bring this people to the land which He swore to give them, therefore He killed them in the wilderness.'" Numbers 14:14-16

According to the Word, what steps should we take to pray?

- ♦ We need to _____ ⁽⁷⁰⁾ what we want from God. We need to remember what we have already learned: it is necessary to be specific. You cannot be indecisive in what you want from God; you must be sure of what you are about to ask.
- ♦ _____ ⁽⁷¹⁾ for a biblical verse that supports your petition. This is where many believers miss it. They are unable to find the verses that support their requests because they do not study the Word and thus, have difficulty finding them. It is very important that your petitions be based on one or more biblical verses; this will guarantee that you will receive the answer to your prayers.
- ♦ _____ ⁽⁷²⁾ God for the things that you need. One thing that the Bible is clear about is that we do not receive because we do not know how to ask. We must approach our Father with confidence, knowing that He hears us. Trust Him for the things that you need and remember to be specific. Describe carefully the things that you need or want, and He will give you the desires of your heart.

²⁴Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them." Mark 11:24

- ♦ You must _____ ⁽⁷³⁾ that you will receive what you are asking for. When you pray, believe and trust. Feel confident that what you are need, will be granted and given to you. Perhaps, you will not see the answer to your prayer right away, but keep trusting; it will come.

²⁴believe that you receive them, and you will have them." Mark 11:24

What should be your attitude after you pray and believe that you have received what you asked for?

- ♦ Do not _____ ⁽⁷⁴⁾. Do not allow the enemy to contaminate you with thoughts of doubt or disbelief. Hold captive every thought that goes against God's Word and cast it out.
- ♦ Meditate on the _____ ⁽⁷⁵⁾. Constantly meditate on God's promises, which you received by faith.

⁷If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you." John 15:7

- ♦ Give glory and _____⁽⁷⁶⁾ to God, with thanksgiving. Every time you remember your petition, give God thanks and the glory for the answer.

Remember that the steps that you just learned can be used as often as you need. Do not stop praying, and asking until you see your answer manifested in the physical realm and until victory is yours.

CHAPTER V

How to Develop a Life of Constant Prayer

Another great problem among believers, in the area of prayer, is that they give up waiting for the answers to their prayers too quickly, and thus, they quit persevering. They never see their prayers answered because they simply give up. They are unable to pray continuously. In this chapter, you will learn a few very important points about prayer that will help you to achieve a constant and continuous prayer life.

1. _____ (77)

What is commitment?

Commitment means to make a quality decision, to hold fast to that decision for a long period of time, and to do it wholeheartedly without looking back.

What should we do with people who are indecisive and uncommitted to prayer?

"¹⁴Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision." Joel 3:14

Our mission as ministers is to encourage people to make a quality decision, and to develop a daily prayer habit in which they can approach God and seek His face. In the family, the first to lead by example should be the husband, followed by his wife and children.

Four ways to bring God's glory and blessings into our homes or over a certain situation:

- ♦ Be the first one to _____ (78). When men lead the service to God, the blessings will increase in their lives.
- ♦ Be the first one to _____ (79) and worship. Men should be the first to raise their hands in worship as they give honor and glory to God.
- ♦ Be the first one to _____ (80). When men take the initiative to pray and to seek God's presence, the blessings will increase in their homes. Men have a level

of authority that women do not have; it is the authority that they have as high priests, which loosens the priestly blessing upon the family.

- ♦ Be the first one to give _____⁽⁸¹⁾. When men take the initiative to tithe and give offerings, the windows of heaven are opened, and blessings are poured upon the finances in the home. Every man, as head of the household, must make the commitment to pray without ceasing.

2. _____⁽⁸²⁾

What is discipline? Discipline means to submit our flesh into servitude in order to achieve a goal. Discipline is not the goal, but the means to get there. In this case, the goal is to pray without ceasing and to persevere in prayer. You cannot rejoice because of your discipline, but you should rejoice in your relationship with God. Discipline is the means that we use when we make the commitment to have a prayer life that is constant and to establish a relationship with God. When we place discipline as a priority in our lives, it will help us to develop self-control.

How did Paul discipline himself?

"²⁷But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified." 1 Corinthians 9:27

3. _____⁽⁸³⁾

Perseverance is the Greek word *proskarteresis*, which means to insist; to be strong until; to persevere; to remain steadfast; to stay in one place instead of abandoning it; to have consistency or to be consistent with a person or thing.

"¹⁴These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers." Acts 1:14

"¹²...rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer." Romans 12:12

"¹⁸...praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints." Ephesians 6:18

Three great enemies of every believer:

_____⁽⁸⁴⁾. This sin opens the door to every other sin. Lucifer was expelled from heaven because of his pride.

_____ ⁽⁸⁵⁾. This spirit paralyzes you. It is an obstacle that impedes you from being successful (this spirit is also known as fear of success). There are many believers today who are bound by this spirit; they need deliverance.

Lack of _____ ⁽⁸⁶⁾. Pride opens the door to every sin, fear binds and paralyzes, and lack of perseverance immobilizes and detains you from going forth. Lack of perseverance is a great enemy of every believer. You will find people that begin projects, but never finish them. They will begin to serve in a ministry, but quickly abandon it. They begin to change, but give up too quickly. They commit to learning, but give it up before they are finished. They begin to pray on a daily basis, but give up because they lack perseverance. There are many unfinished projects, goals and plans that are the direct result of lack of perseverance. Inconsistency is an evil deed.

What did Jesus say about perseverance and consistency?

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

Jesus emphasized two very important points:

- ♦ Prayer is a _____ ⁽⁸⁷⁾. We need to pray because we have to have communion with God; we are called to do it. God wants to establish His will on earth and to change the will of men. He wants the legal right to work in the heart of men. Also, we need to be constantly reminded that prayer is essential to help us from falling into temptation. Jesus declared that prayer is a necessity.
- ♦ Pray without _____ ⁽⁸⁸⁾ and don't lose heart. The words "lose heart" mean to "fail wholeheartedly", to lose your courage and to want to give up. Jesus said that prayer was a necessity and that it should be practiced daily. This is an important point to remember because many give up too soon.

What else did Jesus say concerning perseverance in prayer?

"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you." Matthew 7:7

The word _____ ⁽⁸⁹⁾, in Greek, is *aiteo*, which means to beg; petition or supplication. The word implies to be persistent in asking; to never give up; to never lose heart when the answer is taking too long; and to go forth. Later, Jesus talks about another level of prayer called "seek".

The word _____⁽⁹⁰⁾ implies to seek God with intensity. This is no longer a petition or a supplication; rather, it is an intense and diligent search. It is to search for something until it is found. This word also implies perseverance, but with greater intensity. The last, but not least, level of prayer is to “knock”.

The word _____⁽⁹¹⁾ is also translated as “knocking at the door until it falls.” This word implies an intense search _____⁽⁹²⁾ there is a _____⁽⁹³⁾. This type of search has no limitations. Jesus said to *ask* and *continue* to ask, but if you don’t see any results, *seek* intensely until you find what you are looking for. If nothing happens, then *knock* at the door “until” it falls down. Don’t stop praying until you receive the answer. When we go into the last phase, it is no longer a calling, but it is a groaning, moaning or wailing, which will give birth to something in the spirit. We must pray until there is a breakthrough. Paul said:

“¹⁹My little children, for whom I labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you.”
Galatians 4:19

What does the word _____⁽⁹⁴⁾ mean?

“Until” means a period of time or space; it could be long or short in duration. Sometimes we must pray for some people for long periods of time “until” God finishes what He started in them; as it was in the case of Elijah, who had to pray seven times. The word “until” in Greek means to be attached to a purpose and to not give up. We need to have purpose when we pray, and we should do it until victory is achieved.

Let us examine a few examples of consistency and perseverance that have achieved surprising results.

- ♦ Thomas Edison tried out his experiment over _____⁽⁹⁵⁾ times before he was successful.
- ♦ Albert Einstein tried _____⁽⁹⁶⁾ times to come up with an answer, but it was on the hundredth time that he finally got it; he invented the law of relativity.
- ♦ Abraham Lincoln ran for office _____⁽⁹⁷⁾ times before he was elected president. He became one of the best presidents that this country has ever had.
- ♦ The Israelites had to march seven times around the walls of Jericho before the walls tumbled down and victory was theirs.

- ▶ _____⁽⁹⁸⁾ had to dip in the Jordan River seven times, not six, before he received healing from leprosy. He had to do it “until” he received healing.

Perseverance and consistency implies never to give up, to refuse to lose heart and to remain in one place regardless of the opposition. Let us study the life of Jesus for a moment and see how He exalts consistency in perseverance and persistence.

A friend comes at _____⁽⁹⁹⁾

⁵And He said to them, ‘Which of you shall have a friend, and go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves; ⁶for a friend of mine has come to me on his journey, and I have nothing to set before him’; ⁷and he will answer from within and say, ‘Do not trouble me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give to you’?⁸I say to you, though he will not rise and give to him because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will rise and give him as many as he needs. ⁹So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ¹⁰For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. ¹¹If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? ¹²Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? ¹³If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!’” Luke 11:5-13

In meditating on these verses, we can make the following observations:

⁸Yet because of his _____⁽¹⁰⁰⁾ he will rise and give him as many as he needs.” Luke 11:8

In this verse, the word *persistence* means shameless _____⁽¹⁰¹⁾, to claim one’s petition until it reaches the limit and to be unashamed to ask. What is Jesus trying to tell us through this verse? Jesus is saying that perseverance is the key to getting answers to our prayers. We cannot give up too quickly. We must continue knocking on the door even when the circumstances seem difficult and opposing. Continue to pray and take your petition to the limit until you obtain the victory. You should not feel shame to ask. Continue asking until you are victorious in your home, health and anything else you might be asking God for.

The Parable of the Persistent Widow

¹Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart, ²saying: “There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor regard

man. ³Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him, saying, 'Get justice for me from my adversary.'⁴And he would not for a while; but afterward he said within himself, 'Though I do not fear God nor regard man,⁵ yet because this widow troubles me I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.'⁶Then the Lord said, 'Hear what the unjust judge said.⁷And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them?'⁸I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?" Luke 18:1-8

Let us study in depth the previous verses and meditate on a few key words.

"There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor regard man." Luke 18:2

These words refer to the judges of His time who were Jews and who worked for the Roman Empire. They were _____⁽¹⁰²⁾ judges, _____⁽¹⁰³⁾ to their people and hired by the Roman government to do their biting.

³"Now there was a widow in that city." Luke 18:3

During those days, widows were _____⁽¹⁰⁴⁾. They were exposed to the abuse of the people, many of whom took advantage of them because they were alone, without friends or family, without protection and without a lawyer who would stand on their behalf and defend them. They were poor and the possibility of winning a case before the judge was practically non-existent.

⁵"Yet because this widow troubles me I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me." Luke 18:5

This widow was persistent. She continually went before the judge asking him for _____⁽¹⁰⁵⁾. This expression: "avenge me" implies to protect, defend and make justice. This woman never gave up, so much so, that the corrupt judge said, "if I don't defend her, if I don't protect her, if I don't give her what belongs to her, she is going to cause great trouble for me, she is going to wear me out. Her perseverance is going to drive me crazy! I don't fear God or man, but her perseverance and her continuous showing up at my office, forces me to defend, protect and to give her what belongs to her." Later on, Jesus said, "*Hear what the unjust judge said.*" In other words, the Lord said that her perseverance was what granted her victory. She knocked on the door, once, twice, three times, and it did not open, but finally, she received what she was asking for. Sometimes, when we knock at the door once and it does not open, we give up, but I encourage you to continue praying and knocking. God will give you the victory. If a door is closed at work, at home or in the family, don't give up, keep knocking!

Now, the Lord cleared something up when He said, *“⁷And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them? ⁸I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?” Luke 8:7, 8*

Jesus said that if the corrupt judge, the one who does not fear God and who sold himself for money was able to provide justice to the persistent widow, who did not have any financial support or defender on her behalf, how much more will our Heavenly Father, the Righteous Judge of the Universe, provide justice for us! How much more will our Father protect, defend and give us what belongs to us if we persevere and call out to Him day and night. We have a defender who stands for us and protects us in the Heavenly Court. If you have been praying for your family's salvation, for healing, for your marriage, and you have not seen any results, continue knocking on the door because your persistence will give you the breakthrough that you are looking for. _____⁽¹⁰⁶⁾ and do not give up!

How do we know when we have a breakthrough?

Now we will learn a few of the signs that we should be aware of when our breakthrough is evident.

- ♦ A _____⁽¹⁰⁷⁾ in the spirit. When you are praying for something specific and suddenly a new song comes into your heart, this is a sign that you have the breakthrough that you were waiting for.
- ♦ _____⁽¹⁰⁸⁾ in the spirit. Some people experience the urge to joyfully smile when they are praying; perhaps they might even begin to laugh without understanding why. This is a sign that God has heard your prayer and that the only thing left to do is to wait for it to manifest in the natural.
- ♦ _____⁽¹⁰⁹⁾. When you are praying for something and suddenly a calming peace comes upon you, this means that you have reached your “until” moment of prayer; you have your breakthrough.

4. The inner witness.

Sometimes God speaks to us, letting us know that He is in control. Once we hear from God the only thing left to do is to wait until we have the physical manifestation of that which we have been asking for. After we receive the breakthrough we were waiting for, we should begin to give thanks to God for the answer and for the victory.

Example of a breakthrough: Several years ago, I was burdened by the Lord to pray for my family. At the time, only one of my brothers was saved and the Lord put it in my heart to pray for the rest of my family. I prayed the same thing over and over again for several days. For three days, I fasted and prayed. I began to pray intensely for them, so much so, that I literally felt like I was giving birth. After three hours of intense intercession, I began to groan and moan in the spirit, followed by a new song that came from deep within me, and I also began to laugh. Immediately, I heard the voice of God that said, "Your family is under my control, they will all be saved." Shortly after that, one by one, each of my brothers received the Lord. Six months later, they were all saved. The breakthrough came and the manifestation of it was evident. It took many days, but the victory was mine. My advice to you is: if you have prayed for something for a long time without results, continue to pray and intercede until you feel there has been a breakthrough. Do not give up. Do not surrender. God will give you the victory.

Obstacles that will stand in the way of a breakthrough:

- ♦ Not seeing any _____ ⁽¹¹⁰⁾ in the people, things or situation for which we are praying.
- ♦ The time _____ ⁽¹¹¹⁾ in prayer doesn't equal the outcome.
- ♦ The _____ ⁽¹¹²⁾ reports or well-intentioned words of advice from the brothers or sisters in the faith will sometimes become words of discouragement.
- ♦ Distraction during prayer.

In conclusion, prayer must be a lifestyle choice that requires discipline, commitment and perseverance.

How should we begin?

The first thing we need to do is to make the commitment to pray every day. Regardless of what is happening around us, it is important to keep our commitment to pray and to maintain a close relationship with God. A decision that is not accompanied by discipline will never work. We must begin to submit our flesh and to discipline ourselves in prayer. Many believers purpose in their hearts to pray, but because they never discipline themselves to do it, they lack perseverance and soon give it up. It is necessary to persevere wholeheartedly, asking the Holy Spirit to help you in your weaknesses and to persevere.

CHAPTER VI

Prayer Obstacles

During the years that I have ministered the Word of God, I have seen the frustration in God's people. The reason they are frustrated is because their prayers are not being answered; they pray endlessly without a breakthrough. We need to remember that the Lord delights in answering the prayers of His people. His Word teaches that if we ask according to His will, then He hears and answers. If our prayers are not being answered in the way that we expect, then we must ask the Holy Spirit to help us find out what the problem is and what is blocking the answer to our prayer.

What prevents our prayers from being answered?

1. You do not ask or you ask for the _____ ⁽¹¹³⁾ thing

"²...you do not have because you do not ask. ³You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures." James 4:2-3

Many people think that God is too busy to hear us. Others believe that their petitions and needs are too insignificant for God to pay any attention because small matters do not interest Him. Some people believe that the things that they are asking God are too big for God to answer them. But God's Word says that we don't receive because we do not ask. Their motivation is wrong. What should we do? We should continue to ask God for the things that we need or want, but we should do it with the right intention and motivation; this will be evident when we ask. First, we should ask to establish kingdom blessings, then for your family and then for yourself. If you follow this order, then you have overcome the first obstacle that hinders your prayer from being answered.

2. _____ ⁽¹¹⁴⁾ abuse

"¹Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives." 1 Peter 3:1

"⁷Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered." 1 Peter 3:7

The Apostle Paul teaches what the roles and functions of the man and woman are in the home. He said that women should submit to their husbands, and if she does not, it is considered a form of rebellion against God. Paul tells the husbands to treat their wives as weaker vessels. If the husband mistreats his wife and refuses to love her as she needs to be loved, and perhaps go as far as to physically, verbally or emotionally abuse her, it is considered a form of disobedience to God and His Word. Also, if this behavior is evident in the wife, as well as in the husband, their prayers will be considered a stench and will not be heard. Spousal abuse is a prayer obstacle.

3. Skepticism or _____ (115)

The Greek word for *doubt* is *aporeo*; it means to be without direction, without resources, in a bind, perplexed, in doubt, confused, in hopelessness, anxious and unsteady regarding the path that one should take.

Confusion is the result of a person who doubts. Let us analyze some of the words that describe *aporeo* or doubt:

- ♦ Without _____ (116). This means to be insecure as to where we are going, or which way to take when we are faced with various alternatives.
- ♦ Without _____ (117). A person who doubts will feel that he or she does not have the necessary resources to finish what he or she started.
- ♦ _____ (118). A person who finds himself in a state of "shock" has no idea which way to turn.
- ♦ _____ (119). A confused person has many thoughts and is unable to make the right decision because he or she is unclear as to what to do.
- ♦ _____ (120). This word represents the worst aspect of doubt. The miracle is near, it arrives, but because of a hesitant attitude, he or she is unable to receive the answer to prayer because they begin to wonder if perhaps it could be something else instead.

What should we understand about the meaning of the word "doubt"?

We cannot pray and ask God for anything, if we are in doubt of His existence. If we are anxious or confused about what we are asking, then we won't be able to pray with confidence. If we are perplexed, we won't be able to pray with power. If we hesitate concerning His will, we won't be able to obtain the results that we expect. We must change our attitude and begin to believe God and His Word without doubt.

28 And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." 29 So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. 30 But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!" 31 And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" Matthew 14:28-31

When does doubt enter our hearts? When we fix our eyes on the circumstances around us instead of on Jesus. *30 But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid.* When we doubt, faith leaves and fear strolls right in. When we fall prey to fear, we immediately begin to drown in our sorrows. Doubt is nothing more than believing what the enemy can do against us.

Sometimes, doubt comes in the form of a thought. The enemy will send a thought that is contrary to what you believe. His purpose in doing this is to divide your thoughts and make you focus on only his negative thought. Once he is successful in making you doubt God's promises, you will begin to go back and forth between God's Word and the devil's negative thoughts. God's only desire is for you to focus on Him and His Word. The devil's plan is to play with your mind.

What should we do when doubt comes into our minds? We have to take it captive to the obedience in Christ. We can't waver between two thoughts.

4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds." 2 Corinthians 10:4

What is the answer to doubt?

We must hear and meditate on God's Word. We must continuously think on God's promises found in the Bible and base our prayers in line with these promises. We need to saturate our home, our car, and every where we go with God's Word. The answer to doubt is to learn what the Word of God says, and when we stop doubting, our prayers will be answered.

4. _____ (121)

Unforgiveness is one of the greatest obstacles to our prayers. Many believers are frustrated and discouraged. They are living in a state of spiritual poverty, unable to walk with their heads held high. Because of this defeated attitude, the breakthrough to their prayers is far from them. One reason for the delay is the unforgiveness that they harbor in their hearts. Many try to masquerade their unforgiveness with statements such as: "I was offended." "I only feel resentment towards him or her."

"I am only angry or bothered." "I have something against that person." "I feel hurt"; these to mention only a few, but the Word of God is clear on this matter:

"²⁵And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses." Mark 11:25

What did Jesus say about being angry with our brother?

"²²But I say to you that everyone who continues to be angry with his brother or harbors malice (enmity of heart) against him shall be liable to and unable to escape the punishment imposed by the court; and whoever speaks contemptuously and insultingly to his brother shall be liable to and unable to escape the punishment imposed by the Sanhedrin, and whoever says, You cursed fool! [You empty-headed idiot!] shall be liable to and unable to escape the hell (Gehenna) of fire." Matthew 5:22—AMP

Unforgiveness, offenses, hurts, wounds, and resentment are the guillotine to our prayers. God places us against the wall and says that if we don't let that hurt go, that malice, offense, wounded feeling or resentment from our hearts, then He is not going to forgive or hear our prayers. Heaven will be like bronze for us. Unforgiveness breaks our relationship with God. He is unable to hear our prayer if we harbor something against our brother.

Why does God not forgive our offenses when we choose not to forgive others? Let us meditate on what Jesus said:

*"²¹Then Peter came to Him and said, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" ²²Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven. ²³Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed **him ten thousand talents**. ²⁵But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made. ²⁶The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, "Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all." ²⁷Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt. ²⁸"But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him **a hundred denarii**; and he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, "Pay me what you owe!" ²⁹So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you all." ³⁰And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt. ³¹So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done. ³²Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, "You wicked servant! I*

forgave you all that debt because you begged me. ³³Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?' ³⁴And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him. ³⁵"So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses." Matthew 18:21-35

The verses that you just read give us many important key factors that we need to meditate on. Notice that a *talent* was a unit of measure used to weigh the gold. A *talent* was equivalent to approximately 75 pounds and 10,000 *talents* were equal to 750,000 pounds or 375 tons. Today, the prize for one ounce of gold is approximately \$375.00. Therefore, at today's prices, one pound of gold is worth \$6,000.00, a *talent* of gold or 75 pounds is equal to \$450,000.00 and 10,000 *talents* of gold are equal to \$4,500,000,000.00. In other words, the servant owed his master this incredible amount of money. Jesus was trying to teach us with this passage that the servant had a debt that could never be repaid. We have such a debt that we cannot repay, but Jesus cancelled our debt; He canceled the decree that was designed to destroy us.

"¹³And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, ¹⁴having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross."
Colossians 2:13-14

Going back to the previous Scripture, what was a denarii? It was approximately the salary for one day's work. Today, this is approximately \$52.00 per day. If this is true, then 100 denarii are approximately \$5,200.

There is a great amount of difference between \$4,500,000,000 that the servant owed the king and \$5,200 that the servant owed his master. This is similar to the debt that we had with God; impossible to pay. We had thousands of debts, but God forgave them all. Perhaps someone has offended or mistreated you, but this will never compare to what we have done against God. Thousands of sins against a few offenses are really nothing to speak of. The person who chooses or who feels like he can't forgive has forgotten how many sins Jesus forgave him or her. If we were to consider the age we started to have knowledge or understanding of sin, and how many sins we are guilty of since then, the total sum would be astronomical. Perhaps, if we were to total the number of times that we sinned against God up until now, we could probably come up with 10,000, 15,000, 40,000 or more sins that have been forgiven by Jesus. Taking this into consideration, is it impossible for us to forgive the people that have offended us twenty or thirty times?

What happens when we don't forgive?

In Matthew 18:34,35, the Word tells us that we will be turned over to our torturers; these are demons and the consequences that we must face are _____⁽¹²²⁾, _____⁽¹²³⁾, _____⁽¹²⁴⁾, and _____⁽¹²⁵⁾, among too many to mention. When this happens, we have no one to blame but ourselves. Through sin, we give the enemy legal rights to destroy us. This also prevents our prayers from being answered. Anger, resentment, bitterness and hate follow the cycle of unforgiveness. Let us meditate on the following verse:

⁸Again, a new commandment I write to you, which thing is true in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing away, and the true light is already shining. ⁹He who says he is in the light, and hates his brother, is in darkness until now. ¹⁰He who loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him. ¹¹But he who hates his brother is in darkness and walks in darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes." 1 John 2:8-11

¹⁴We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death. ¹⁵Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him." 1 John 3:14, 15

What should we do when someone offends us?

²⁶When angry, do not sin; do not ever let your wrath (your exasperation, your fury or indignation) last until the sun goes down." Ephesians 4:26—AMP

In closing, the greatest obstacles to our prayer life are: not asking or not knowing how to ask, spousal abuse, doubt and unforgiveness. We need to make every effort to avoid temptation in these areas. If we do this, every prayer will be answered.

CHAPTER VII

How to Pray for One Hour Using Different Types of Prayer

One complaint that many believers have is, "I cannot pray for long periods of time. I simply run out of things to say. I ask God for the things that I need, and then, I don't know where to go from there." With God's help, I will teach you to pray for one hour or more. You will learn how to pray for longer periods of time, using different kinds of prayers; each prayer has a specific purpose and they are all necessary. In Ephesians 6:18 it says, "*Praying always with all prayer and supplication.*"

In this chapter, we will define and study the purpose for each kind of prayer. Also, you will learn how to pray for one hour or more, using twelve kinds of prayers.

1. The praise and _____⁽¹²⁶⁾ prayer

This kind of prayer is used to worship God for what He is and for what He does. Every time you decide to pray, you should begin with a time of praise and worship. As soon as you open your mouth, you should begin to exalt God's greatness. Many believers have yet to understand what it means to praise God. Today, I will try to teach you what I know.

What is _____⁽¹²⁷⁾?

Praise means to honor, glorify, admire and celebrate God's *goodness* and wonderful works. Praise is a brilliant, radiant, shining, magnificent and living celebration. The more you exalt and magnify God through praise, the happier you will be and your understanding of Him will intensify and deepen. This genuine expression of praise will lift up your spirit. You will be overwhelmed, to such an extreme, that you will begin to boast and brag about your God. As a result, your praise will make you noisy, loud and outspoken. You will begin to express what He is and who He is. It will seem as if you had lost your mind for an instant. You will begin to resemble a person who is outside of yourself, as if you had too much to drink and simply lost all self-control. You will appear to be delirious or crazy. Some people might even say that you were making a fool of yourself.

The following verses describe David's attitude when he praised God:

¹³And so it was, when those bearing the ark of the LORD had gone six paces, that he sacrificed oxen and fatted sheep. ¹⁴Then David danced before the LORD with all his might; and David was wearing a linen ephod. ¹⁵So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouting and with the sound of the trumpet. ¹⁶Now as the ark of the LORD came into the City of David, Michal, Saul's daughter, looked through a window and saw King David leaping and whirling before the LORD; and she despised him in her heart. ²⁰Then David returned to bless his household. And Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David, and said, "How glorious was the king of Israel today, uncovering himself today in the eyes of the maids of his servants, as one of the base fellows shamelessly uncovers himself!" ²¹So David said to Michal, "It was before the LORD, who chose me instead of your father and all his house, to appoint me ruler over the people of the LORD, over Israel. Therefore I will play music before the LORD. ²²And I will be even more undignified than this, and will be humble in my own sight. But as for the maidservants of whom you have spoken, by them I will be held in honor."
2 Samuel 6:13-16, 20-22

In the Merriam-Webster dictionary, the word *praise* means to express a favorable judgment of, or to glorify God, especially by the attribution of perfections; to express praise. In simple terms, praise means to give God the honor and the glory through which you express your admiration. Praise changes the priority in your lives, from yourself to God. Praise is a conscious decision; an act of your will.

¹⁵Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name." Hebrews 13:15

A sacrifice of praise is the kind of praise that you give to God out of obedience, regardless of how you feel. The Greek word for *sacrifice* is *thuo*; it means to kill or assassinate with purpose. When you offer a sacrifice of praise to God, what you are really doing is killing your pride, selfishness, self-righteousness, laziness, tiredness and the desires of the flesh. What happened the first time that you raised your arms to the Lord? You felt embarrassed. What happens now when you are going through a crisis? The last thing you want to do is talk about it, much less praise God in the midst of it. Then, what should you do when you do not have the desire to praise or worship God? The answer is easy, begin to offer your sacrifice of praise to God; kill everything that is holding you back from adoring Him.

When should you praise God?

God is worthy of your praise and of your worship all of the time. It does not matter what time of the day it is, you should begin praising Him the moment that you wake up and continue praising Him throughout the day until it is time to sleep again. Begin your prayer praising Him for the things that He has done.

*"I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth."
Psalms 34:1*

Some principles of praise:

You do not need a special reason to praise Him. Every moment, every instant is the perfect time for praise. At the beginning of each day, praise will give you the strength to overcome any adversity that you might have to face during the course of your day. Your griping and complaining destroys the atmosphere created by praise.

Biblical ways on how to praise God:

- ♦ _____ (128). This is the most common way to praise God.

"Sing praise to the LORD, you saints of His, and give thanks at the remembrance of His holy name." Psalms 30:4

"...speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord." Ephesians 5:19

- ♦ _____ (129). This word in Hebrew is *ranan*, which means to shout and sing with power. To shout is to let out a gust of wind from your mouth, and if possible, the force of this wind should break stones in half; to rupture the ears with a powerful sound.

- ♦ _____ (130). This is an extremely rare form of praise today. When you experience this form of praise, and begin to laugh, sometimes uncontrollably, people around you will think that what is happening is weird, but believe it or not, this, too, is another way to praise God.

*"He will yet fill your mouth with laughing, and your lips with rejoicing."
Job 8:21*

- ♦ _____ (131). When you give thanks to God for everything that He does for you, you are praising Him.

"...to stand every morning to thank and praise the LORD, and likewise at evening." 1 Chronicles 23:30

- ♦ _____ (132). This is when you get on your knees and bend over as a sign of humbleness before God; this is an act of respect and reverence.

- ▶ _____ (133). Kneeling down before your God is an act of humbleness and honor to Him. This is where you recognize that He is God and that you are His child.

- ▶ _____ (134). Clapping is praise; it demonstrates your appreciation for God. Unfortunately, there are many churches today that forbid people from clapping during a church service or meeting. To applaud means to make noise, not the kind of gentle noise that you would expect in an opera, but the kind of noisy, loud and deafening applaud, like the sound of thunder. This form of praise expresses His greatness when words are not sufficient.

"¹Oh, clap your hands, all you peoples! Shout to God with the voice of triumph!" Psalms 47:1

- ▶ _____ (135). This form of praise was very common in Bible days. It is the movement of your entire body as you praise God.

"¹Praise the LORD! Praise God in His sanctuary; Praise Him in His mighty firmament!" Psalms 150:1

In Luke 10:21, it says, *"rejoiced in the Spirit."* The word "rejoice" in Greek means to "jump for joy." This same word in Hebrew means to "turn many times in the air while under the influence of a violent emotion." To "rejoice" means to spin or rotate in the air. This word implies that you don't realize nor are you conscious of what you are doing. How many times does the Lord motivate you to dance in the Spirit and you doubt if you should do it or not because you feel ashamed?

- ▶ _____ (136) your hands. Some of us, on a rare occasion, raise our hands to praise God, but He is telling us to do it as an act of praise.

"^AThus I will bless You while I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name." Psalms 63:4

- ▶ _____ (137) and _____ (138) in tongues – We praise God when we talk and sing in other tongues or in the Spirit. This is where our spirit speaks directly with God.

"¹⁵What is the conclusion then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding." 1 Corinthians 14:15

- ♦ Worshipping Him with music and _____ (139) This is the most common form of praise; with music, using every kind of instrument available.

¹Praise the LORD! Praise God in His sanctuary; Praise Him in His mighty firmament! ²Praise Him for His mighty acts; Praise Him according to His excellent greatness! ³Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet; Praise Him with the lute and harp!" Psalms 150:1-3

Why should you praise Him?

Because praise invites God into your _____ (140). Praise invites God to take control of your day, making it pleasurable. You should praise God because He is _____ (141) to be praised.

¹²...saying with a loud voice: "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing!" Revelation 5:12

Following is a list of principles concerning praise and worship:

- ♦ God does not _____ (142) your praise. If God needed your praise before He could act, then He would be limited by it.
- ♦ Praise does not _____ (143) God.
- ♦ Praise changes your _____ (144).
- ♦ Praise attracts God to your _____ (145), in such a way that you will feel confident and able to overcome any adverse situation.
- ♦ Praise changes every impossible situation into _____ (146).
- ♦ Praise, based on faith, gives thanks to God for the things that He plans to do, before He does them.
- ♦ You should begin and end each prayer with praise and worship.
- ♦ To praise is to seek God and to worship is to be found by Him. The goal of praise is to create an atmosphere that enables God's presence to descend upon us.
- ♦ Praise is initiated by _____ (147). Worship is God's _____ (148) in response to your praise.

- ▶ Praise is something that you do. Worship is something that God loosens.
- ▶ Praise is the structure that you build; it is God's house. Worship is when God moves into that house.
- ▶ We cannot generate worship because it is completely dependent on God.
- ▶ We can waltz right into worship through praise; it is God's prerogative to respond to our initiative.

Pre-requisites needed to dwell in His presence

- ▶ _____ (149) and _____ (150). God is looking for true worshippers. He is looking for people whose words and actions are in harmony with their hearts.

³Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD? Or who may stand in His holy place? ⁴He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, nor sworn deceitfully. ⁵He shall receive blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of his salvation. ⁶This is Jacob, the generation of those who seek Him, who seek Your face." Psalms 24:3-6

- ▶ _____ (151). God is upright in thought, word and action. Do not come into His presence unless you cleanse your spirit. Worship means to have intimacy with God, and when you do this, He is unwilling to be contaminated with your spirit. Worship is a privilege to those who seek Him in spirit and in truth, and who have clean hands and a pure heart.

²³A time will come, however, indeed it is already here, when the true (genuine) worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth (reality); for the Father is seeking just such people as these as His worshipers. ²⁴God is a Spirit (a spiritual Being) and those who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth (reality). John 4:23, 24—AMP

⁸These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. ⁹They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men." Matthew 15:8, 9

God's presence brings:

- ▶ _____ (152)

I have found many believers that, for a long time, lost their joy because they have not been in God's presence.

- ♦ _____⁽¹⁵³⁾ and rest

Rest means a bodily state characterized by minimal functioning and metabolic activities; freedom from activity or labor; a state of motionlessness or inactivity; a place for resting or lodging; peace of mind or spirit. When God is with you, you are the one delivered from all anxiety and worry as He works.

- ♦ Assurance and _____⁽¹⁵⁴⁾

When we are in God's presence, we are secured, strengthened and silenced because He is in control.

²⁰You shall hide them in the secret place of Your presence from the plots of man; you shall keep them secretly in a pavilion from the strife of tongues." Psalms 31:20

- ♦ It changes your _____⁽¹⁵⁵⁾ and it gives you the _____⁽¹⁵⁶⁾ over Satan.

If you want God to change your circumstances, then begin to praise Him. God will move on your behalf and the enemy will be defeated.

God's presence is the answer to your every need. The goal is to continually live in God's presence.

Praise and worship is the first kind of prayer needed to begin your prayer time with God.

2. The prayer of _____⁽¹⁵⁷⁾ or supplication

This is the kind of prayer that you use when you ask God for your personal needs or desires; to ask for anything that has to do with you and not others.

The prayer of petition should always go together with thanksgiving.

⁶Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God." Philipians 4:6

²⁴Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them." Mark 11:24

3. The prayer of _____ (158)

The prayer of intercession is to petition or ask God for something, on someone else's behalf. This kind of prayer is where you stand in the gap for others; you raise a cover of protection over another person; you enclose them with your prayers. The prayer of petition has to do with asking for yourself, and the prayer of intercession is when you ask on someone else's behalf. Everyone knows people who are in need, and everyone needs something, which needs prayer and intercession. Let us begin to pray and intercede today!

What are the most important reasons why the Word of God commands that we intercede?

- ♦ To intercede for the people in _____ (159)

¹Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, ²for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. ³For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior." 1 Timothy 2:1-3

In the verse that you just read, you are asked and encouraged to pray for every spiritual leader in the church and in government, regardless if his or her position is social or political. You should also intercede for your president, congress, representatives, mayors, commissioners, pastors and their families, and church leaders. This prayer of intercession is pleasing to God; it is not a selfish prayer because it does not focus on self; it is targeted towards others who are in need of God's favor. The prayer of intercession is also known as the prayer in the spirit or praying in other tongues. We can practice this prayer in two different ways:

- With _____ (160)
- In the Spirit or in other _____ (161)

¹⁴For if I pray in an [unknown] tongue, my spirit [by the Holy Spirit within me] prays, but my mind is unproductive [it bears no fruit and helps nobody]. ¹⁵Then what am I to do? I will pray with my spirit [by the Holy Spirit that is within me], but I will also pray [intelligently] with my mind and understanding; I will sing with my spirit [by the Holy Spirit that is within me], but I will sing [intelligently] with my mind and understanding also." 1 Corinthians 14:14, 15

When you pray with understanding, which is in your own language, you are praying intelligently, according to God's Word, because you are citing Scripture.

But, when you pray in unknown tongues, it is the Spirit, through us, who prays God's perfect will for all the saints.

What are the benefits of praying in other tongues?

- ♦ You edify _____ (162).

The Greek word for *edify* is *oikodomes*, which means to construct or build a house or home. Figuratively speaking, this term is used in the New Testament to mean edification or spiritual promotion; it promotes the believer's character. Also, "edify" means to establish or to build upon a foundation.

"He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church." 1 Corinthians 14:4

What the Word is saying in this verse is that every time you pray in unknown tongues, what you are doing is placing another brick on the foundation. What this does within your spirit is to improve who you are; it improves your character. In other words, when you pray in unknown tongues, you experience a spiritual promotion in maturity on the inside. After you pray for one hour, in tongues, you will never be the same again. God will make changes in your spiritual structure and He will promote you to higher levels.

"²⁰But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit." Jude 1:20

One more thing that happens when you pray abundantly, in the spirit, is that you feel spiritually charged.

- ♦ We pray God's _____ (163).

When you pray in the spirit, you pray God's perfect will for His saints. What you have to do now is to ask the Holy Spirit to help you and to guide you to know who you should pray for, what you should ask for and for how long. Surely the Holy Spirit will lead you by the hand and guide your prayers in line with God's perfect will.

- ♦ You pray _____ (164) to God and not to men.

Praying in tongues is a direct line of communication between our spirit and God. Once you establish this line of communication with God, He will begin to reveal to you the mysteries that can only be understood by the Lord.

¹²...he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries."

1 Corinthians 14:2

- ▶ When praying in the spirit (other tongues, you _____ ⁽¹⁶⁵⁾ and _____ ⁽¹⁶⁶⁾ God.

¹⁴While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. ¹⁵And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. ¹⁶For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God." Acts 10:44-46

Every time we sing or pray in tongues, we are magnifying, exalting, glorifying and honoring God because we are speaking in a heavenly language.

- ▶ When you pray in tongues, you receive spiritual _____ ⁽¹⁶⁷⁾.

You receive rest when you pray in tongues because you no longer have to make the effort to attain God's grace and favor. When you speak in tongues the Holy Spirit guides you to pray God's perfect will.

¹¹For with stammering lips and another tongue He will speak to this people, ¹²to whom He said, "This is the rest with which You may cause the weary to rest," and, "This is the refreshing"; yet they would not hear." Isaiah 28:11-12

How to Receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit with the Evidence of Speaking in Other Tongues

- ▶ You need to be _____ ⁽¹⁶⁸⁾. This means you must first repent of all your sins. Second, invite Jesus into your heart. Third, you must confess Jesus as the Lord and Savior of your life.

¹³Jesus answered and said to him, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.'" John 3:3

- ▶ You must _____ ⁽¹⁶⁹⁾ that this gift belongs to you. Every believer who wants to receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, with the evidence of speaking in tongues, must believe that he can receive it because this gift is for those who choose to believe, not for unbelievers. This gift is part of the gift of salvation and it is God's will that you receive it right now.

¹⁷And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues." Mark 16:17

³⁹For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call." Acts 2:39

- ▶ You have to _____ ⁽¹⁷⁰⁾. You must be hungry for the supernatural. You must want and desire the rivers of living water to flow through you.

³⁷On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, 'If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. ³⁸He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'" John 7:37, 38

- ▶ You have to _____ ⁽¹⁷¹⁾ for it. You must ask for every blessing that God has in store for you and one of these many blessings is the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Open your mouth and say, "Heavenly Father, I want the gift of speaking in other tongues, give me the fullness of your Holy Spirit right now, in the name of Jesus. Amen!"

¹³If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!" Luke 11:13

- ▶ The Holy Spirit will give you the gift of speaking in other _____ ⁽¹⁷²⁾, but you have to open your mouth and speak. Many people want the baptism of the Holy Spirit, but they don't make the effort to open their mouths and begin to pronounce what is in their spirit.

⁴...and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance." Acts 2:4

The same way that you received your salvation, by faith and grace, is the same way you will be filled with the Holy Spirit.

A few aspects of the baptism of the Holy Spirit:

The Word teaches that the baptism in the Holy Spirit and the baptism in water are completely separate from the gift of salvation. After you are born again, there is still another experience waiting for you, and this is operating in the supernatural, which can only be accomplished after you receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

"I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." Matthew 3:11

When you are baptized in the Spirit, you receive supernatural tongues or languages as the evidence that you did receive the gift. Along with this spiritual language you also receive supernatural power. This power gives you the ability to become a better witness for Jesus and it makes you bold when you have to be a witness and testify of His love.

4. The prayer of consecration or _____ (173).

"He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, 'O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.'" Matthew 26:39

In this kind of prayer the believer takes the opportunity to repent and confess any sin that he or she might have committed. Also, this prayer can be used to dedicate and consecrate the areas of your life that have become obstacles in your spiritual life to God. Everybody offends God either by the spoken word, a thought or action. It is because we are sinners that we need God to cleanse us with His blood every day. Every time you wake up, and after spending time with God in praise and worship, you should present your petitions before Him. Once you have done this, you should make the prayer of dedication and consecration. In simpler terms, confess every sin that you have committed, repent of your sins and walk away from them.

When you make your prayer of dedication and consecration, you present to God the areas of your life that need change; you make a covenant or commitment to God to improve in those areas which you recognize that you need to change, and your commitment is to be upheld on a daily basis. You should go before God's presence every day and be accountable for your every action. It took Jesus a long time to consecrate His will to the Father. He had to pray three times for the same thing until it was settled in His Spirit. You have to do the same thing. You need to sanctify and consecrate your will to the Father every day until you attain victory.

5. The prayer of _____ (174)

In this kind of prayer you express your thankfulness to God for everything, including past, present and future blessings.

"Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name." Psalms 100:4

This kind of prayer should be continuously in your mouth and heart. The opposite of being thankful is to complain and murmur, which is an act of irreverence to God.

"³I thank my God upon every remembrance of you." Philipians 1:3

When should you express thankfulness to God?

You should tell God how thankful you are every day. You should do it in the morning, in the afternoon, at night, when you wake up and before you go to sleep. In other words, give thanks to God all of the time.

What should you be thankful for?

You must learn to be thankful for everything. This means that regardless of the situation, crisis or hardship you might be going through, you need to give thanks to God. This includes being thankful for *past, present and future blessings*. When you do this, you learn to be grateful and thankful, remembering His faithfulness and grace.

*"¹⁸...in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."
1 Thessalonians 5:18*

There are many blessings for which you could be thankful, for instance, a physical miracle, a house, a car or an offering.

There are certain personal blessings that you will not see manifest until you begin to give thanks; these would be the *future blessings*. Before you receive the answer to your prayers, you should be giving thanks for the answer. Our thankfulness is the same as a prayer of faith, they bring forth the miracle.

"²⁰...giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." Ephesians 5:20

6. The prayer of _____ (175)

In this kind of prayer, you keep silent before God and wait on Him.

*"⁷Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for Him; do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, because of the man who brings wicked schemes to pass."
Psalms 37:7*

This is probably the hardest thing for many believers to do because most people love to talk, and talk, and talk, but they can't be quiet for a moment. To be silent

before God is very important because God needs to be able to talk to us during this time.

What is the purpose for remaining silent?

During these moments of silence, you give God the opportunity to speak to you. It is very important for you to remember that prayer is a dialogue, not a monologue. Every time you talk to God in prayer, you need to be silent for a moment and give God an opportunity to speak to you and give yourself the opportunity to hear His voice. As you wait for the answer to your prayer, which is already in God's hands, meditate and contemplate upon His greatness and beauty. As you wait in holy silence, waiting for Him to speak, it allows you to see His glory, it allows God to work in your life and it helps you to be closer to Him. This is the time when you give God permission to do as He wills in your life.

7. The prayer to _____ (176)

¹⁸And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Matthew 16:18, 19

In this kind of prayer, the believer uses his God-given authority against the enemy.

To _____ ⁽¹⁷⁷⁾ means to prohibit or to declare something to be illegal or improper; to declare something illegitimate. When you are facing the attack of the enemy against your family, finances and children, it is time to use the authority that God has given you. You need to prohibit, bind, declare illegal and improper, everything that the devil is doing against you. When you exercise your authority the devil has to run from you.

To _____ ⁽¹⁷⁸⁾ means to be delivered or to open; to allow; to declare something legitimate and legal. You use your authority the same way to bind and to loosen something. This process allows you to establish the kingdom of Heaven on earth and to declare it legal by delivering the oppressed, opening the doors of the captives and letting go of those who are now held in bondage by the enemy. You can do these things when you pray the prayer to bind and loosen.

8. The prayer of agreement

¹⁹Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven." Matthew 18:19

This is the prayer where two or more believers stand in agreement before the Lord. The prayer of agreement should be _____⁽¹⁷⁹⁾ with the family and with the brothers and sisters around you.

The meaning of the word *agreement* is very interesting. In Greek, this word is *symphoneo* and it is divided into two words: *Sym*, which means together, and *phoneo*, which means to play. Therefore, *symphoneo* means to play something simultaneously or in harmony. In other words, the word *agreement* means to believe and to speak the same thing. When two or more people stand in agreement, they should receive healing the same way; this is confessing and speaking the same thing.

What steps should you take to pray the prayer of agreement?

- ♦ Look for _____⁽¹⁸⁰⁾ you can pray with. The person that you choose to stand in agreement with you should have the same level of faith as you or greater.
- ♦ _____⁽¹⁸¹⁾ on what you will be praying for. You need to be specific and clear on what you and the other person want to ask God.
- ♦ After praying and presenting your petitions to God, continue to declare and to give thanks to God _____⁽¹⁸²⁾. This is what we call harmony.
- ♦ _____⁽¹⁸³⁾ for the answer. You and the person who stood in agreement with you need to give thanks to God and begin to declare the same thing concerning what you asked and what you expect to receive.

The prayer of agreement is so powerful that the enemy will try everything, including cause division in the family, because he knows that when a husband and wife agree on something, the results will be powerful.

9. The prayer of _____⁽¹⁸⁴⁾ and revelation.

*¹⁶do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers:
¹⁷that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, ¹⁸the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints."
 Ephesians 1:16-18*

In this prayer the believer asks God for wisdom and revelation in Him. I practice this prayer every day because it is very important for us to want to understand and know the Word of God more and more each day. When you pray this prayer, your understanding will increase and the Lord will begin to reveal hidden truths that cannot be perceived by human methods.

What is _____ (185)?

The word "revelation" in Greek is the word *apokalipsis*, which means to undress; to remove the veil from a hidden truth; it is to see something in Scripture that was not seen before.

¹³When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, "Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?" Matthew 16:13

The revelation of the Word of God always comes into the heart and not the mind. Each revelation that God gives allows for us to operate in it, using the keys of the kingdom. This will fill us with power and authority to bind and loosen. For this reason, it is very important for you to practice this kind of prayer in which God will have the opportunity to give you the spirit of wisdom and revelation. The enemy will always want to keep you away from any revealed truth because he knows that if you receive knowledge in any area, you will have the keys to the kingdom and the understanding that whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven.

Revelation places the keys of the Kingdom in your hands and it gives you the authority to bind and loosen; to close and open; to allow and to prohibit on earth and in heaven. Every believer that practices this kind of prayer will receive revelation in the Word, and as the revelation is received, the enemy will not be able to defeat them because they will no longer be ignorant as to the Word or his schemes.

10. _____ (186) prayer

In this kind of prayer, the entire congregation or a group of people stand in agreement for a specific purpose.

²⁴So when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord and said: 'Lord, You are God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them.'" Acts 4:24

³¹And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness." Acts 4:31

Corporal prayer is done in unity. When people come together of one accord, one mind, and one purpose to intercede, the result is a powerful move of God. One thing that will make God manifest Himself in all of His glory and splendor is unity. Understanding this should motivate us to keep the unity; we should seek and ask for it in prayer.

*¹Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!
²It is like the precious oil upon the head, running down on the beard, the beard of Aaron, running down on the edge of his garments." Psalms 133:1, 2*

11. _____ ⁽¹⁸⁷⁾ prayer

This kind of prayer is used to declare, confess and decree, through the leading of the Holy Spirit, the Word of God, His plans and purpose.

How can you pray the prophetic prayer?

- ♦ With the leading of the _____ ⁽¹⁸⁸⁾. The Holy Spirit will guide you to pray for the things that you want or need at a specific time. A prophetic prayer is a proclamation and a decree of God's will on earth.

¹⁴For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, 'Abba, Father.'" Romans 8:14, 15

- ♦ _____ ⁽¹⁸⁹⁾ and declare the Scripture with understanding.

³And He said to me, 'Son of man, can these bones live?' So I answered, 'O Lord GOD, You know.' ⁴Again He said to me, 'Prophesy to these bones, and say to them, 'O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD!' ⁵Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: 'Surely I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live. ⁶I will put sinews on you and bring flesh upon you, cover you with skin and put breath in you; and you shall live. Then you shall know that I am the LORD.' ⁷So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and suddenly a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to bone. ⁸Indeed, as I looked, the sinews and the flesh came upon them, and the skin covered them over; but there was no breath in them. ⁹Also He said to me: "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath: 'Thus says the Lord GOD: 'Come from the four winds, o breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live.'" Ezekiel 37:3-9

The spoken Word has great power. The Word of God brings forth life when you prophesy; when you proclaim it and speak it into that which is lifeless; to broken

marriages; to sick bodies and to failed businesses. You are what you declare in prayer that you are; therefore, begin to declare the Word every day.

You can pray the prophetic prayer with the leading of the Holy Spirit or with understanding in the Word of God, declaring and establishing a decree based on God's Word concerning the situation at hand or when you seek a blessing that is in line with His Word.

12. The prayer of _____ (190)

This kind of prayer is used to praise and worship God. You use it to express your adoration for Him; for who He is and for what He does. To read more about this kind of prayer you can refer back to the beginning of chapter VI where you will find a full detailed description.

CHAPTER VIII

Fasting and Prayer — a Lifestyle Choice

What is _____⁽¹⁹¹⁾? Fasting is the voluntary abstention of eating for a determined period of time. This is done for the purpose of seeking God's face and to establish a stronger relationship with Him.

"¹²Now, therefore, says the LORD, 'Turn to Me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning.'" Joel 2:12

The word _____⁽¹⁹²⁾ means to turn back to the starting point; to return and to seek God's face. To return to God, you need to do it wholeheartedly, in fasting and supplication.

"¹⁶Moreover, when you fast, do not be like the hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. ¹⁷But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. Matthew 6:16-18

"When" implies that you can fast and pray whenever you want, without the need for a specific word from God or anyone else that tells us to do it..

"⁵...in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in fastings; ⁶by purity, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by sincere love." 2 Corinthians 6:5, 6 (Paul)

"¹ Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. ²As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, 'Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.' ³Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away." Acts 13:1-3 (apostles)

The most important thing to remember from the verses that you just read is to practice fasting and prayer as a lifestyle choice. In other words, commit yourself to fast at least once or twice a week, one a month or once every two months. The kind of fasting that you do depends on you. A fast can be partial, absolute or total.

What are the three kinds of biblical fasting?

- ♦ _____ (193). This fast is accomplished without eating solid foods or drinking any liquids, including water. You will find that in the book of Esther, the Jews did not "eat or drink."
- ♦ _____ (194). In this fast, you do not eat solid foods, but you can drink water. In Matthew 4:1-11 it says, *"²And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry."* It says that Jesus was hungry; it does not say that He did not eat or drink nor does it say that He was thirsty.
- ♦ _____ (195). This kind of fasting is done by eliminating a certain kind of solid food and or drink from the usual daily diet, as it was in the case of Daniel.

"³I ate no pleasant food, no meat or wine came into my mouth, nor did I anoint myself at all, till three whole weeks were fulfilled." Daniel 10:3

Also, the partial fast is accomplished when you suppress one or two meals a day, such as breakfast and lunch, or when you choose to eat only fruit or vegetables.

What is the purpose of fasting?

There are seven reasons why you should fast:

- ♦ To _____ (196) God. You honor God when you choose to dedicate a certain amount of time to spend with Him and to seek His face. This time is dedicated only to God. During this time, you recognize who God is and you give Him the place of honor that He deserves.
- ♦ To _____ (197) and _____ (198) before His presence. It is not often that we realize how prideful we are. Arrogance and humbleness are mysteries. Pride and humbleness are conditions of the heart; it is who we are. The only time that it is evident to us that we have pride or lack humbleness is when we fast and pray; it allows us to see our true self.

"¹Now on the twenty-fourth day of this month the children of Israel were assembled with fasting, in sackcloth, and with dust on their heads. ²Then those of Israelite lineage separated themselves from all foreigners; and they stood and confessed their sins and the iniquities of their fathers." Nehemiah 9:1, 2

When you fast God will show you if you have pride. He can humble you in private or in public. If God humbles you in public the humiliation will last longer because your instinct will be to resist. If God humbles you in private the humiliation will not last as long because the request to know was initiated by you and not by Him.

"¹⁵For thus says the High and Lofty One who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: 'I dwell in the high and holy place, with him who has a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.'" Isaiah 57:15

- ◆ To _____ ⁽¹⁹⁹⁾. Every time you have to face a crisis, when you are going through the deserts in your life, when you are tempted or dealing with financial adversity, marital problems or trying to overcome the obstacles that the enemy has raised up before you, it is time to fast and pray.

"¹It happened after this that the people of Moab with the people of Ammon, and others with them besides the Ammonites, came to battle against Jehoshaphat. ²Then some came and told Jehoshaphat, saying, 'A great multitude is coming against you from beyond the sea, from Syria; and they are in Hazazon Tamar' (which is En Gedi). ³And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah." 2 Chronicles 20:1-3

- ◆ To hear His voice and to ask for direction.

"³He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake." Psalms 23:3

Many times you might find yourself in difficult situations. You will have no idea how you should act; do you strike the rock or do you speak to it; do you take authority or do you wait on God. If fasting and prayer is a lifestyle choice for you, then you will be able to hear God's voice.

- ◆ To _____ ⁽²⁰⁰⁾ people into the ministry. Fasting and prayer should always be the first thing that a leader does when he needs to separate a man or a woman for the work of the ministry. God takes this matter very seriously; it is very important.

"¹Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. ²As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, "Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." ³Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away." Acts 13:1-3

- ◆ To develop spiritual _____ ⁽²⁰¹⁾. When you fast your spiritual perception and sensitivity is sharpened. If there was something in the Word that you did not understand, after you fast and pray, your understanding in the Word will

increase. If it is difficult to hear the voice of God, after you fast and pray, you will be able to hear it with ease.

- ♦ To lose the bonds of _____ (202).

*“Is this not the fast that I have chosen: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, to let the oppressed go free, and that you break every yoke?”
Isaiah 58:6*

As stated earlier, in Hebrew, the words “to loosen” mean to open a door that was closed; to deliver someone from captivity; to loosen a prisoner; to untie a knot. There are traps and obstacles that the enemy sends into your life that are impossible to break, except through fasting and prayer. The only way to open a door that was closed, perhaps in your business, workplace, ministry, marriage, health or others, is through fasting and prayer.

What steps should you take to fast?

- ♦ You must declare your fast before God in an audible _____ (203). When you do this, ask God what kind of fasting you should follow: absolute, partial or total. Also, determine how long you are going to do it and confess with your mouth the moment that you start your fast.
- ♦ Define the _____ (204) for your fast. What is the reason you are declaring a fast? You can have more than one reason for fasting, but before you begin you must be specific with God. For example: “Lord, I declare this fast for my children’s salvation.”
- ♦ Ask the Holy Spirit to _____ (205). The Holy Spirit is our comforter and counselor. Ask Him to give you the spiritual, physical and emotional strength that you will need as you do your fast; He *will* help to keep you strong.
- ♦ Receive the reward to your fast _____ (206) it comes.

“Your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly.” Matthew 6:4

“¹⁶Moreover, when you fast, do not be like the hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. ¹⁷But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face.” Matthew 6:16, 17

You should give thanks to God for receiving the answer to your petition during your fast and prayer before you see it manifest in the natural. It is important to keep in mind that

this is not a business transaction with God, rather, the answer to your prayer comes as a result of your diligence in searching for Him, and because you want to be closer to Him, He will reward you. God always rewards those who diligently seek Him.

To close this subject we can conclude that fasting and prayer go together. When believers fast and pray with the right heart-felt attitude, with the correct intentions, and in line with God's Word, the results are powerful.

CHAPTER IX

How to Pray for Our Unbelieving Family

Any one who truly understands what hell is like would not want to go there. It is a place of torment. The Word of God describes it as a place where the worm never dies and the fire is never quenched. Every person who chooses not to receive Jesus as their Lord and Savior will go to this place of torment. Many people wonder why so many are unable to see the truth of the gospel, they ask questions such as: "What is preventing them from receiving the gospel?" "Could it be that God does not want to save them?" "Is there something standing in the way of them believing in the truth of Jesus?"

Before learning this topic, first allow us to explain what God's desire is for His people.

God wants everyone to receive salvation.

"The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance." 2 Peter 3:9

This verse is powerful. It explains that God's will is that no one should perish. Then, why are so many people lost and ignorant to the truth of Christ, if you and I both know that God's will is to save the world? What is preventing them from believing? One thing is certain; God is not the problem or the obstacle standing in the way of your family's salvation. Then who is at fault?

The Word of God teaches that the world is blinded by the enemy and it is this spiritual blindness that prevents people from seeing and receiving the truth.

"³But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, ⁴whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them." 2 Corinthians 4:3, 4

Let us now dig deeper into what God is saying to us in these verses. The word _____⁽²⁰⁷⁾ in Greek is *kalupsis*, which means hidden; covered up; wrapped up. What does this mean? It means that the unbelievers cannot see the light of the gospel because the enemy has the truth hidden from them; he has them veiled or blinded from the truth. However, the power and authority to remove this veil from their minds was given to every believer; to you and me. This word is closely related to

the Greek word *apokalupsis*, which means revelation; to remove the veil; to strip or undress, to unearth or uncover.

"¹⁷Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven." Matthew 16:17

The enemy's goal is to hide the truth of the gospel and to keep the unbelievers in bondage. The revelation is the light that makes the unbeliever understand and be enlightened by the truth.

"^A...whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them." 2 Corinthians 4:4

The word _____ ⁽²⁰⁸⁾ in Greek is the word *tuphloo*, meaning to darken; to weaken; to dull the intellect and the mind. The root of this word means "to make smoke." The idea behind this word is like a screen of smoke that darkens to the point of complete blindness.

What is this word teaching us? The reason why people doubt Jesus is because the enemy has darkened their understanding and he has dulled their mind, in such a way that even when they want to see the truth, they can't. Many people around the world are total skeptics to anything having to do with God. They don't want to know about Him because they are blinded by the devil.

What prevents the unbeliever from understanding? Pride and _____ ⁽²⁰⁹⁾ in people makes them reject the advice of others. They refuse to submit to authority and live as they please. They live independently from God because they feel self-sufficient. Selfishness, self-justification and independence are part of pride and arrogance; these are in every human being and the devil uses them to blind the minds of the people.

The wages of a prideful and arrogant person is spiritual _____ ⁽²¹⁰⁾.

Love for self, everything that satisfies the ego, exalting everything that has to do with self and any other message that preaches the denial of self is offensive to the ego. What do we have to do to remove the veil from people's minds? We must pray fervently for the root of this pride to be removed completely from our family and the people for whom we pray for, so that they can come to Christ.

What steps should you take to pray effectively for your family?

1. You must _____ ⁽²¹¹⁾ — in the name of Jesus — the _____ ⁽²¹²⁾ power that blinds them.

One thing that you should do to break the power of the enemy is to be specific when you pray and to do it with power. Use the following example as a guide:

"Heavenly Father, I break the power of the devil that blinds _____ (say the name of the person) and in the name of Jesus I order you to loosen him/her and to remove the veil that is blinding him/her, right now. I break the power of spiritual blindness, pride and arrogance."

Sometimes, the power of the enemy will be broken instantaneously, and in others, it will be progressively. Don't give up praying for your family member or friend, even if he or she starts to get worse after you begin to pray. Continue to pray because in the spiritual realm, the power of the devil has already been broken. Believe it wholeheartedly and continue to pray without ceasing!

2. Pray that God sends _____⁽²¹³⁾ to the harvest.

"Then He said to them, "The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest." Luke 10:2

God has everything in abundance except for one thing, workers; and this does not depend on Him, but on the will of men. God does not force anyone to serve Him. If you choose to serve Him it is because you want to do it wholeheartedly.

Before your family can be saved it is necessary for you to pray every day and in your prayers you need to ask God to send people to surround the unbelieving members of your family. You should pray that wherever they are or whatever they are doing or whoever they are with, whether at school or prison, at the hospital or in their business, the people around them will talk to them about Jesus.

I remember that before I met Jesus, everywhere I went there was someone talking to me about Him.

3. Pray that God _____⁽²¹⁴⁾ their hearts and that they may _____⁽²¹⁵⁾ the good news of the Gospel.

"But these are the ones sown on good ground, those who hear the word, accept it, and bear fruit: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred." Mark 4:20

You need to pray every day and ask the Lord to prepare the heart of the people who are unbelievers. Ask the Lord to change his or her heart, making them tender and gentle and for their hearts to be good planting ground so when the seed of the

gospel is planted it will bear fruit. Pray for the veil to be removed and for God's Word to be revealed in their hearts.

4. Pray that their repentance is _____ (216).

"The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance." 2 Peter 3:9

True repentance is a genuine change of mind, direction and heart. It is a new understanding that comes from God as a result of having a personal revelation. This revelation will produce a change in the individual, not only in attitude, but also in action, direction and lifestyle.

5. Pray that their understanding will be _____ (217).

"I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints." Ephesians 1:17, 18

You should practice the steps that you have just learned every day. Don't give up regardless of how your family is acting or if the people that you are praying for get worse. Continue to pray until the power of the enemy is broken over their lives and the promise of God is fulfilled. Never lose sight of the fact that the day you received your salvation you also received a promise that automatically included your family. God included this promise as part of His covenant with you the day that you received Him as Lord and Savior.

"They replied, 'Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved; you and your household.'" Acts 16:31

CHAPTER X

How to Begin a Ministry of Prayer and Intercession in a Local Church

The ministry of intercession is a very important one for the local church. Before the ministry of intercession is established, there are certain questions that should be asked, that will guide and confirm the ministry within the church.

1. Why should the ministry of intercession be established in a local church?

- ♦ To build up a spiritual hedge of _____⁽²¹⁸⁾ around the church, the families that attend, the pastor and the leaders.
- ♦ Every time the enemy comes against our ministry it has been unveiled and destroyed in prayer and intercession.
- ♦ Intercession raises a _____⁽²¹⁹⁾ of protection, a _____⁽²²⁰⁾, a strong _____⁽²²¹⁾ around the church and its members that prevents the enemy from penetrating.
- ♦ To _____⁽²²²⁾ the things established in the vision of the church and the body of Christ.

¹⁹My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you." Galatians 4:19

Most of the blessings that God has given our ministry, which include buildings, properties, television, radio, land, souls, healing, miracles, and more, were birthed in the Spirit through the intercessors. Sometimes the process has taken days, other times weeks, months and years before the evidence is manifested, but the victory has always been ours.

If the local church does not have a ministry of intercession, there will not be any new things to be birthed nor is God's will going to be fulfilled in that ministry.

- ♦ Pray for the _____⁽²²³⁾ of the people.

There are many believers defeated, hurt and wounded in the body of Christ; they need someone who will stand in the gap for them. They are unable to defend

themselves from the attacks of the enemy; thus the importance of the ministry of intercession.

2. The gift of intercession and how to identify a true intercessor

One important key for a successful ministry of intercession is to place the right people with the right calling into the right ministry. These people should feel love and be passionate for prayer. Next, you will learn what the gift of intercession is and what evidence proves that a believer has this gift. Also, you will learn a few of the dangers and the different kind of intercessors that exist.

The gift of _____ (224)

What is the gift of *intercession*? It is the ability given by the Holy Spirit to pray for long periods of time. Furthermore, it means to have great passion for prayer and to stand in the gap before God for the needs of others.

*“³⁰I looked for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I found none.”
Ezekiel 22:30*

What is the *purpose* for the gift of intercession?

- ♦ To build up a spiritual _____ (225) around the church and the family.
- ♦ To stand in the _____ (226) between God and men and to fulfill God’s will on earth.
- ♦ To give birth to what has already been established in the vision of the church and in the body of Christ.
- ♦ To make _____ (227) against the devil and his demons by destroying all of his plans.

What is the evidence that proves that a believer has the gift or the calling for the ministry of intercession?

- ♦ They pray for _____ (228) periods of time and enjoy it.
- ♦ They operate strongly in the gift of discernment of spirits.
- ♦ Intercessors identify with the burden and pain of other people.

- ♦ They often see their prayers answered, more than any other average believer.
- ♦ They always have an attitude of prayer.
- ♦ The gifts of compassion and love are evident in them.
- ♦ They often experience sensations or symptoms in their physical body, which alerts them to incoming danger.
- ♦ Intercessors are extremely _____⁽²²⁹⁾ to the spiritual realm.
- ♦ They have a deep passion for prayer and inter-cession.
- ♦ Intercessors _____⁽²³⁰⁾ injustice.

What danger can the gift of intercession cause if it is not dealt with properly?

- ♦ Intercessors might believe that they are the only ones that can hear from God and that they are the highest authority of God on earth.
- ♦ They might believe that they are spiritually superior to others because they spend more time in prayer.
- ♦ They could have the tendency to perceive evil more than what is good.
- ♦ They might want to manipulate the pastor and the leaders with their prayers.
- ♦ They might make prayers of judgment against people.

It is extremely important for every intercessor to submit to a spiritual covering. He or she should never initiate a prayer assignment without the blessing and authority of the pastor or leader.

What different kinds of intercessors exist?

- ♦ Intercessors for _____⁽²³¹⁾ the lost souls.
Many people will never receive salvation until an intercessor stands in the gap and births them in the spirit through intercession.
- ♦ Intercessors for finances
- ♦ Personal intercessors

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- ▶ Crisis intercessors
- ▶ _____ (232) intercessors
- ▶ Worship intercessors
- ▶ _____ (233) intercessors
- ▶ Intercessors for the _____ (234)
- ▶ Prophetic intercessors
- ▶ Intercessors for _____ (235)

3. How do you look for a secret place for the ministry of intercession?

What is the secret place? The secret place is where you meet God every day. It is a place where you enter into His presence and where you are transformed, taught, disciplined and loved. It is a place where you receive restoration, forgiveness and the revelation of your calling. This secret place is the prayer room.

“²⁰You shall hide them in the secret place of Your presence from the plots of man; you shall keep them secretly in a pavilion from the strife of tongues.” Psalms 31:20

“⁶But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.” Matthew 6:6

Every believer should have a prayer room; a secret place where God can be found every day. Every church should also have a secret and exclusive prayer room where the intercessors can gather together to pray continually.

All of us can pray anywhere. We can pray at the restaurant, in the airplane, at the hotel, in the street, at the bank, or anywhere we might find ourselves, but there is a great difference when there is a special place designed specifically for prayer and fellowship with God.

Following are several important factors that you should know concerning these “places”:

- ▶ Places are _____ (236) to God. He created the “places” before He created man and it was the first purpose of the Holy Spirit.

“...the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.” Genesis 1:2

- ♦ Miracles occur in specific _____ (237).

“...but He needed to go through Samaria.” John 4:4

When you read the story of the Samaritan woman you begin to understand that Jesus knew in what places miracles would occur. Faith operates stronger in some places more than in others. Faith-filled people have the ability to create an atmosphere for miracles in towns, cities and nations.

Doubt can block or stop miracles from happening.

“⁵⁷So they were offended at Him. But Jesus said to them, ‘A prophet is not without honor except in his own country and in his own house.’⁵⁸Now He did not do many mighty works there because of their unbelief.” Matthew 13:57, 58

Naaman was healed in the Jordan River and the blind man received his sight at the Pool of Siloam. These were also places where God performed miracles.

“⁶When He had said these things, He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva; and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay. ⁷And He said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which is translated, Sent). So he went and washed, and came back seeing.” John 9:6, 7

You can create a room or a place that is filled with God's presence. This room should have worship music playing all the time. The Word of God should be written on the walls and it should contain paper and pencil to write down everything that the Lord reveals to the intercessors.

When the room or place for prayer or intercession is chosen it should be sanctified and separated for the exclusive use of the prayer and intercession ministry. Some of the following tools and utensils used should also be included:

- ♦ Anointing oil
- ♦ Water
- ♦ Worship music
- ♦ Written prayer petitions
- ♦ Paper and pencils
- ♦ Soft lighting
- ♦ Bread and wine for the Lord's Supper

It is important to be in the right place for miracles to occur.

4. For how long should you pray?

You can begin by praying for one hour a day. As people begin to join the prayer team, increase the hours until there is prayer twenty-four hours a day, or at least until enough time is dedicated to every need of the people and the church. Our church started with three hours a day and it now covers twenty-four hours. It is important to be clear on the fact that when our church started this ministry of intercession it was done with volunteers until it was included in the church's annual budget; these volunteers then joined the staff on a full time basis.

5. What should be prayed for?

Priorities of prayer and intercession that intercessors should pray for:

1. The pastor and his _____ (238)
 - ✓ Divine wisdom
 - ✓ Spirit of wisdom and revelation
 - ✓ Protection
 - ✓ A greater level of anointing
 - ✓ Fear of God
 - ✓ Church and personal finances
 - ✓ Pastor and his family
 - ✓ Health
 - ✓ Pastor and his personal finances

2. The _____ (239) of the local church
 - ✓ Souls
 - ✓ Leadership
 - ✓ Finances
 - ✓ The different departments within the church
 - ✓ God's presence
 - ✓ Future plans and projects
 - ✓ The _____ (240)
 - ✓ Evangelism
 - ✓ For God's will to be done on earth
 - ✓ Pastors and leaders
 - ✓ For the expansion of the Gospel
 - ✓ Unity in the body of Christ

3. The _____ (241) and his cabinet.

¹Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, ²for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. ³For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior.
1 Timothy 2:1-3

Remember that pastors are responsible for providing the tools, the motivation, encouragement and training to every intercessor. This is essential and it should be done periodically to prevent them from becoming discouraged; remember that they are at war constantly. Therefore, to establish an intercessory ministry in the church, it is important to remember the following:

- ♦ To understand the purpose for the ministry of intercession.
- ♦ To _____⁽²⁴²⁾ the people who have a calling for intercession.
- ♦ To find a prayer room. This room should be used only for this purpose; otherwise, it should be done in the sanctuary.
- ♦ Intercede for certain specific priorities.
- ♦ To provide _____⁽²⁴³⁾ for the intercessors.

If a ministry wants to be effective and cause an impact in the neighborhood, then it must have a powerful prayer ministry.

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