

Part 7 Practical Prayer

Contrary to popular opinion, prayer does not originate in us, but in God. When prayer originates in us, it is usually soulish prayer that doesn't have spiritual value:

*It is the spirit that quickens, the flesh profits nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life. (John 6:63 KJV)*

But when a prayer originates in God, then we pray in God's will and our prayer is answered. You see, God gives us burdens for prayer in our spirit, then when we hear and respond to the burdens, we begin to pray in spirit thus responding to the burdens. So, we should discern when God gives us burdens.

There are different types of prayer. In terms of participants there are individual and joined prayers, when more than one person prays with us. Joined prayer is most powerful when we are united in Spirit and purpose in prayer.

*And five of you shall chase a hundred, and a hundred of you shall put ten thousand to flight: and your enemies shall fall before you by the sword. (Lev 26:8 KJV)*

With regards to a prayer purpose we can distinguish prayers of petition, intercession, supplication, thanksgiving, praise, worship, need, etc.

Then there is a model in prayer as given to us in the Lord's prayer. Prayer should always start with praise and thanksgiving in humility, before any request is made. Prayer should also finish in the same way, with praise and thanksgiving.

We should never proceed in prayer when we have unconfessed sin, or unforgiveness and bitterness. If we do, the prayer will be offered to demons rather than God, and demons will respond in deceiving you with false sense of answered prayer.

In a joined prayer we should never accuse fellow believers or boast. To do that is to utter the Pharisee prayer model:

*The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. (Luke 18:11 KJV)*

One should never tell God in prayer how to answer it. We leave that to God to decide.

The prayers that please God are intercession prayers, for we are a Kingdom of priests, and priests' chief purpose is to intercede for others before God. Abraham, Moses, Daniel and Jesus were intercessors who petitioned God on behalf of the people. You see, true prayer is selfless, not self-centred. It is the prayer that pleases God.

Who should we intercede for in prayer? Your family, spouse, children, neighbour, the lost, ministry, workplace, church, your country, town, district, neighbourhood, etc.

Please avoid repetitive prayers with the exception when the burden is not released, and the Holy Spirit wants you to persevere in prayer. Also, keep the prayers concise and to the point, especially when you pray with others. Please watch your motivation in prayer, especially when you ask God for something personal.

Some of the most effective prayers are prayers through the Word of God. In other words, you pray God's Word in a situation. To do that you need to study the Bible. Please never tire of studying God's Word – it is your daily lifeline.

Your morning prayers should be about God's will for you for the day ahead while your evening prayers should be about thanking God for His provision throughout the day and about giving back to God the burdens of the day. Never go to bed with burdens not shared and given back to God. If you do, you will be drained spiritually.

I hope this brief outline about practical prayer was helpful to you.

Our next part 8 is about how to deal with a calamity in your life.