

I. WHAT IS PRAYER?

- A. Prayer is a relational line of communication between God and humanity that involves both speaking to God and listening to Him.
- B. It expresses humility and dependence, activates faith, and brings transformation in the believer before it brings change to circumstances.

II. WHY WE PRAY?

- A. We pray primarily to fellowship and commune with God, because prayer is relational, and not a religious duty.
- B. We pray because God is worthy of our time, attention, and affection, and because prayer brings forgiveness and renewal—restoring intimacy, not salvation.
- C. Through prayer we align our hearts with God’s will, engage in spiritual warfare, and follow the example of Jesus, the early church, and generations of believers.
- D. For this reason, prayer is one of the most essential practices we can teach those we disciple.

1. ***“Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.”-Lk 11:1***

III. FIVE THINGS THAT IGNITE A PRAYER LIFE

1. PAIN THAT PRODUCES AWARENESS OF PERSONAL WEAKNESS

- a) Nothing ignites prayer like realizing, *“I cannot do this.”*
- b) Seasons where self-sufficiency collapses because of crisis, loss, great disappointment, fear, uncertainty, and pain is where most people's prayer lives are sparked and formed.

(1) Prayer often begins where **confidence ends**.

c) EXAMPLE OF ANNA THE PROPHETESS (Luke 2:36-38)

(1) The pain of the loss of her husband drove her into the house of prayer, but beauty kept her there for over 80 years.

- d) Other examples are Hannah turning her pain and barrenness into desperation where she poured her heart out to God in prayer. (1 Sam 1:9-18)
- e) King David ran into God's house to worship after the loss of his son. (1 Sam 12:20)

2. ENCOUNTERS WITH GOD

- a) People pray more when God becomes real to them.
Encounters with God produce prayers to God.
- b) A great example is the prophet Isaiah in Isaiah 6:1-8.
 - (1) He had an upward vision of Jesus, then an inward vision of his sin, and then an outward vision of the lost. These three visions put a deep cry in him before God saying "here I am send me".

3. SPIRITUAL HUNGER

- a) Hunger creates desire, not obligation. People pray consistently when they want more of God, not just His help.
 - (1) ***The level of our hunger will tell us to what level our prayer life will go***
- b) You don't schedule hunger—hunger schedules you. In the same way, when the soul is hungry for God, prayer stops being an appointment and becomes a pursuit.

4. SEEING THE BIGGER PICTURE

- a) When we discover that there is something bigger going on than our own lives, often it ignites urgent prayer.
 - (1) Examples: Daniel realizing the prophetic timeline of God for Israel in Daniel 9:2, and Simeon knowing he was in a Kairos hour of human history before Jesus arrival (Luke 2:25-27)

5. **PERSECUTION AND PRESSURE**

- a) Persecution has always driven the church deeper into prayer, not because suffering is good, but because pressure strips away every false source of security and forces believers to depend fully on God. (Acts 4:29-31)

(1) Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.” -Lk 21:36

IV. **DIFFERENT TYPES OF PRAYER IN THE BIBLE**

- A. The Bible reveals prayer as a multi-dimensional practice—petition asks, supplication urgently cries out, intercession stands in the gap, thanksgiving honors God, worship adores Him, confession realigns the heart, and warfare prayer confronts spiritual resistance.”
- B. In Scripture, prayer is like a toolbox, not a single tool—sometimes we ask, sometimes we stand for others, sometimes we worship, sometimes we repent, and sometimes we contend.

V. **SEVEN DIFFERENT TYPES OF PRAYER IN THE BIBLE**

- A. ***2 Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, 2 for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. 3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.-1 Tim 2:1-4***

1. **SUPPLICATIONS**

- a) Prayer marked by urgency, humility, and deep dependence—often pleading or crying out for God to intervene.

(1) 7 who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear- Heb 5:7

2. PRAYERS

- a) This can include worship, praise, adoration, devotional agreement, listening, and even confession of sin.
- b) Can also include what I call "soul prayers"
- c) Soul prayers are focused on our inner life. Personal prayers that sculpt our inner man and transform us.
- d) Our inner man is the place of the soul where our mind, emotions, and will reside. This is the place if consistently strengthened daily by prayer and the word will determine the amount of fruitfulness in our life, relationships, and callings.

(1) 14 For this reason I bow my knees to the Father [f]of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, 16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, 17 that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith;-Eph. 3:14-17

3. INTERCESSIONS

- a) Defined as standing before God on behalf of others, cities, and nations in agreement with His will, contending for His purposes to be released on the earth. (Ezekiel 22:30)
- b) It's not trying to convince a reluctant God, but agreeing with a good and willing God to bless and establish His revealed will and purposes.

4. GIVING OF THANKS

- a) Prayer that expresses gratitude for God's goodness, provision, and faithfulness.
- b) We should begin our prayers with silence, and then thanksgiving.

c) ***Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. -Ps 100:4***

d) ***"Give thanks in all circumstances." -1 Thessalonians 5:18***

5. PRAYING IN TONGUES

- a) Praying in tongues edifies the believer by strengthening our personal spirit beyond the limits of human understanding.
- b) This is a powerful way to pray when the mind cannot fully engage or articulate what God is doing in us, and through us.

(1) 2 For 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 Cor 14:2-44 He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself

- c) This is the type of prayer that I believe Paul the apostle prayed the most

(1) 18 I thank my God I speak with tongues more than you all;-1 Corinthians 14:8

- d) **John G. Lake** (1870–1935) was a Pentecostal preacher, missionary, and healing evangelist, widely regarded as one of the most influential ministers of the Holy Spirit in the twentieth century. During his ministry in South Africa (1908–1913), reports from that period claim more than 500,000 healings from his ministry in a five year period.

(1) Lake prayed in tongues for hours a day and said, "Praying in tongues was the making of my ministry".

6. WARFARE PRAYER

- a) Warfare prayer involves engaging God in the spiritual conflict in the invisible realm. This type of prayer is not fighting people, but resisting spiritual forces through prayer, truth, obedience, and dependence on the Holy Spirit.

- (1) ***12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.-Eph 6:12***
- (2) ***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-Eph. 6:18***

b) Example of the church engaging in warfare prayer after Peter was put in prison and was sentenced to be killed.

- (1) ***5 Peter was therefore kept in prison, but constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church. -Acts 12:5***

7. TRAVAIL

a) Travail prayer is Spirit-birthing intercession that labors inwardly many times with groans, cries, tears, and prayers that cannot be uttered in human language until God's purpose is brought forth.

- (1) ***26 Likewise 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. -Rom 8:26***
- (2) ***"My little children, for whom I labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you— Galatians 4:19 (Paul the Apostle)***