

## I. WHAT IS EFFECTIVE PRAYER?

A. Effective prayer is not just speaking words — it is praying in a way that aligns with God’s heart and brings results according to His will.

1. The Bible says in **James 5:16**, ***“Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.”***

B. Fervent means:

1. Burning
2. Intense
3. Active
4. Persistent

C. It is not passive prayer — it is prayer that carries spiritual fire.

## II. SEVEN MAJOR BIBLICAL REASONS WHY WE MUST PRAY EFFECTIVELY

### 1. FERVENT PRAYER BEGINS WITH PERSONAL CONSECRATION

a) *‘Have mercy upon me, O God, According to Your lovingkindness; According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, Blot out my transgressions.’<sup>2</sup> Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin.’<sup>3</sup> For I acknowledge my transgressions, And my sin is always before me.’-Psalms 51:1-3*

b) Before public breakthrough, there must be private surrender of “Repentance”.

c) Example: Evan Roberts prayed, “Bend me, O Lord.” John Wesley rose early daily for prayer.

### 2. EFFECTIVE PRAYER RELEASES GOD’S POWER ON EARTH

a) God has always chosen to move through prayer.

(1) **James 5:16** — ***“The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous person avails much.”***

- b) When we pray effectively, things shift. Strongholds break. Healing flows. Doors open. Prayer is heaven's authorized channel for divine intervention.
- c) The word "fervent" means **passionate**, **persistent**, and **wholehearted**.
- d) It is not casual or empty repetition. It is prayed with faith and confidence. It perseveres even when answers delay.

*(1) Hebrews 11:6 — "But 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."*

*(2) Luke 18:1 — "Jesus taught them that men always ought to pray and not lose heart."*

### 3. EFFECTIVE PRAYER ALIGNS US WITH GOD'S WILL

- a) Prayer is not about bending God to our will — it's about aligning our hearts with His.

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

- b) Effective prayer keeps us in step with God's purposes instead of acting independently. It keeps us spiritually accurate.
- c) Effective prayer agrees with what God desires, not just what we want.
- d) It is rooted in Scripture. "**Against all hope, in hope, Abraham BELIEVED**"
- e) It seeks God's purpose first. "**Not my will, but Your WILL be done**"
- f) It submits to His timing. "**Man ought to pray and not lose heart**"

(1) **1 John 5:14** — When we pray according to His will, heaven responds.

#### 4. EFFECTIVE PRAYER PRODUCES SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY

a) Prayer builds authority in the spirit realm.

(1) **Luke 10:19** — *“Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.”*

b) Authority is exercised through prayer. Without effective prayer, authority remains unused.

#### 5. EFFECTIVE PRAYER PREVENTS SPIRITUAL WEAKNESS

a) Prayer strengthens us against temptation, fear, and discouragement.

(1) **Matthew 26:41** — *“Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation.”*

(2) When prayer becomes weak, spiritual compromise follows. Effective prayer keeps us spiritually alert and empowered.

#### 6. EFFECTIVE PRAYER IS PERSISTENT

a) **Luke 18:1** The persistent widow refused to stop until justice came.

(1) Example: Jeremiah Lanphier began with six people praying — it grew into a national awakening. Breakthrough often comes after consistency, not convenience.

#### 7. EFFECTIVE PRAYER INVITES THE HOLY SPIRIT

a) **Acts 1–2** The disciples waited and prayed — and the Spirit was poured out.

b) Revival does not come by talent, strategy, or charisma. It comes by hunger and waiting.

### III. FOUR BIBLICAL EXAMPLES OF FERVENT PRAYER

#### A. FERVENT PRAYER STOPS JUDGMENT

1. When mercy is sought intensely, judgment can be delayed.

a) **Exodus 32:11–14 — Moses pleaded for Israel after the golden calf.**

*(1) Then Moses pleaded with the Lord his God, and said: "Lord, why does Your wrath burn hot against Your people whom You have brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? "12 Why should the Egyptians speak, and say, 'He brought them out to harm them, to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from Your fierce wrath, and 14relent from this harm to Your people. "13Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, Your servants, to whom You swore by Your own self, and said to them, I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven; and all this land that I have spoken of I give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever."14 So the Lord relented from the harm which He said He would do to His people.'*

2. God declared judgment, but Moses interceded passionately, appealing to God's covenant and reputation. The Lord relented.

3. Fervent intercession can stand in the gap and turn wrath into mercy.

#### B. FERVENT PRAYER OPENS CLOSED WOMBS AND IMPOSSIBLE SITUATIONS.

1. Prayer births what seems dead.

a) 1 Samuel 1:10–20 — Hannah prayed in bitterness of soul.

*(1) 10 And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed to the LORD and wept in anguish. 11 Then she made a vow and said, "O LORD of hosts, if You will indeed look on*

*the affliction of Your maidservant and remember me, and not forget Your maidservant, but will give Your maidservant a male child, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, and no razor shall come upon his head.”<sup>12</sup> And it happened, as she continued praying before the LORD, that Eli watched her mouth. <sup>13</sup> Now Hannah spoke in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard. Therefore Eli thought she was drunk. <sup>14</sup> So Eli said to her, “How long will you be drunk? Put your wine away from you!”<sup>15</sup> But Hannah answered and said, “No, my lord, I am a woman of sorrowful spirit. I have drunk neither wine nor intoxicating drink, but have poured out my soul before the LORD. <sup>16</sup> Do not consider your maidservant a wicked[e] woman, for out of the abundance of my complaint and grief I have spoken until now.”<sup>17</sup> Then Eli answered and said, “Go in peace, and the God of Israel grant your petition which you have asked of Him.”<sup>18</sup> And she said, “Let your maidservant find favor in your sight.” So the woman went her way and ate, and her face was no longer sad.<sup>19</sup> Then they rose early in the morning and worshiped before the LORD, and returned and came to their house at Ramah. And Elkanah knew Hannah his wife, and the LORD remembered her. <sup>20</sup> So it came to pass in the process of time that Hannah conceived and bore a son, and called his name Samuel, saying, “Because I have asked for him from the LORD.”*

2. Her silent, tear-filled prayer brought forth Samuel — a prophet who would shift a nation.
  - a) Fervent prayer births destiny.

### **C. FERVENT PRAYER RELEASES DELIVERANCE FROM THREAT**

1. Prayer shifts intimidation into victory.
2. Kings 19:14–35 — Hezekiah spread the threatening letter before the Lord.

a) **14 And Hezekiah received the letter from the hand of the messengers, and read it; and Hezekiah went up to the house of the LORD, and spread it before the LORD. 15 Then Hezekiah prayed before the LORD, and said: "O LORD God of Israel, the One who dwells between the cherubim, You are God, You alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth. 16 Incline Your ear, O LORD, and hear; open Your eyes, O LORD, and see; and hear the words of Sennacherib, which he has sent to reproach the living God. 17 Truly, LORD, the kings of Assyria have laid waste the nations and their lands, 18 and have cast their gods into the fire; for they were not gods, but the work of men's hands—wood and stone. Therefore they destroyed them. 19 Now therefore, O LORD our God, I pray, save us from his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that You are the LORD God, You alone." 20 Then Isaiah the son of Amoz sent to Hezekiah, saying, "Thus says the LORD God of Israel: 'Because you have prayed to Me against Sennacherib king of Assyria, I have heard.' 35 And it came to pass on a certain night that the angel of the LORD went out, and killed in the camp of the Assyrians one hundred and eighty-five thousand; and when people arose early in the morning, there were the corpses—all dead.**

3. Instead of reacting in fear, he prayed. That night, God struck the Assyrian army.

a) What you lay before God in prayer, He fights for you.

#### **D. EFFECTIVE PRAYER STRENGTHENS FOR SPIRITUAL BATTLE**

1. Prayer prepares us before the pressure comes.

a) **Luke 22:44 — And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.**

2. In Gethsemane, Jesus prayed intensely before facing the cross. Prayer gave Him strength to endure suffering and fulfill His mission.

a) Fervent prayer gives strength to stand in destiny.

IV. **MORE EXAMPLES**

A. **William Joseph Seymour Experience:**

1. Rejection
2. Silence Silence was not absence, but an **invitation**
3. He prayed more than he slept
4. Kneeling was his way of resisting unbelief
5. He constantly prayer saying
6. Come Holy Spirit, Lord send your Spirit
7. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit “ Act 2:4”
8. A brother asks William Seymour how long will you keep asking?  
And Brother Seymour said until heaven answers and if not I will keep asking?
9. He never rose discouraged, every prayer ended in gratitude not frustration WHY?Because William Seymour believed in God.
10. Azusa Street Revival helped raised more than 600 million pentecostal christians around the world
11. Unity between black and whites, rich and poor, the power of LOVE was the greatest miracle and the Holy Spirit made them ONE.
12. The fire of transformation came. People begging to confess sin and asking for forgiveness
13. The Holy Spirit was rebuilding humanity from the dust
14. On 4/9/1906 what started in prayer heaven chose to thunder across the city.
15. Blind eyes were open, the sick were healed, hard hearts were broken
16. The promise of Joel 2 was fulfilled again in Azusa Street Revival

**B. Peggy and Christina Smith:**

1. struggled through the hours of the night, refusing to take a denial. Had He not promised, and would He not fulfill? Our God is a covenant keeping God and He must be true to His covenant engagements. Did He fail us? Never! Before the morning light broke, we saw the enemy retreating, and our wonderful Lamb took the field.

**C. E.M. Bounds**

1. "The men who have done the most for God in this world have been early on their knees."
2. "Prayer is not learned in a classroom but in the closet."

**D. Rees Howells**

1. "There are no impossibilities with God when you know how to prevail in prayer."

**E. Maria Woodworth-Etter**

1. "We must pray until the fire falls."

**V. A CHURCH THAT PRAYES FERVENTLY**

1. Conviction increases
2. Repentance deepens
3. Worship intensifies
4. Unity strengthens
5. Evangelism becomes natural
6. Revival is not hype — it is sustained presence.