

Building **A LIFE OF PRAYER**



Securing the Foundation
of My Personal Prayer Life



Joseph B. Kack

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Texts highlighted in bold or capitalized in Scripture quotations reflect the author's emphasis.

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A NOTE FROM THE AUTHOR

This book has not been written as a guide on “how to pray.” Surely there are many excellent books written which can help us to pray more effectively.

This book has been written to assist the reader in establishing the FOUNDATION of a consistent, personal prayer life, by expanding our view of “how we see prayer.”

Why does my personal prayer life really matter? What difference does it make?

What's available for me when I take time to pray consistently?

How does God use my prayer life to work His will and plan in my life?

This book is a collection of thoughts and revelations from The Word of God which personally bring me back to a life of prayer again and again.

My prayer is that God would use this book as a tool and as fuel to UPGRADE your personal prayer life, so that you can continually tap into more and more of all that He has prepared for you!

— **Joseph B. Kack**

The *FIRST* Step

“DO YOU HAVE ETERNAL LIFE?”

For God so loved the world that he gave
his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him
shall not perish but have eternal life.

JOHN 3:16 (NIV)

The *FIRST* step to build a life of prayer is to receive eternal life by accepting Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, thereby becoming a child of God.

Jesus is the Son of God, who died on the cross and shed His blood to pay the price for the sins of the whole world.

The Bible tells us in Romans 10:13 that *“whoever calls on the name of the Lord [Jesus] shall be saved.”*

The Scripture also tells us in Romans 10:9 *“that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”*

When you call on the name of Jesus and receive Him as your Lord, **YOU RECEIVE ETERNAL LIFE** and you become God’s child.

Accepting the gift of Jesus into your heart gives you relationship with the Living God! Only then are you in a position to have fellowship with the Father and commune with Him in prayer.

THE FIRST STEP

If you have never taken this FIRST STEP, then pray this simple prayer in sincerity from your heart:

“Dear God,

I believe that Jesus is Your Son, and that He died on the cross to pay the penalty for my sins. I believe that Jesus has been raised from the dead and that He is alive!

Right now, I call on the Name of Jesus. Jesus, come into my heart. I receive You as my personal Lord and Savior. Forgive me of my sins and cleanse me by the power of Your blood.

Thank You for saving me and giving me eternal life!”

Congratulations! You are now a child of God!



PART ONE

“What Prayer Means to Me”

If the FOUNDATIONS are destroyed,
What can the righteous do?

PSALM 11:3

Foundations are essential. Foundations are a vital part in building anything that is strong, substantial, and enduring. If we want to be great at anything, whether it be in a sport, business, music, marriage, or life, there will always be foundations that are fundamental to our success. We will never be able to build beyond or go forward beyond the strength of our foundations.

For those of us who have decided to pursue God's will for our lives and to live our lives for His glory, certain foundations and fundamentals are also critical. One such foundation is the essential foundation of **establishing a consistent, personal prayer life.**

We all know that a personal prayer life is an important part of our Christian lives, but I think we often lack understanding as to WHY it is so important. What is really happening when I pray? What happens when I don't pray? Does it really matter one way or the other? How have I been designed by God to function? How does God work His will and plan for me?

In preparing this material, the Holy Spirit revealed this thought to me:

“So many of the problems and issues that we currently face are simply a result of PRAYERLESSNESS. ”

We get into trouble when we don't take time to pray. We get out of God's timing. We often move out ahead of God, or we lack awareness. We lack the spiritual discernment and strength to boldly step into those things that have been prepared for us. Things get out of line and out of order when we don't take time to pray.

Instead of subduing things around us as we should, we find ourselves subject to them. We find ourselves subject to the pressures around us, the will of other people, and even the weakness of our own flesh.

But the good news is this: As we begin to give ourselves consistently to a life of personal prayer, things can begin to change and improve QUICKLY.

As we once again return to this fundamental of a consistent, personal prayer time we can almost immediately reap some of the following benefits:

- a greater peace of mind
- a greater sense of rest
- a greater personal confidence and boldness
- a greater sense of readiness

Do you have an established, personal prayer life?

Do you keep a consistent prayer time or prayer times with the Lord?

Many people think they do until they honestly and objectively look at how much time is really being spent in prayer. We don't want to be self-deceived, thinking that because we know that we **SHOULD** pray that we actually **DO** pray. The Bible teaches us that only the "doers of the Word" of God will get results. When we know something but don't do it, we only deceive ourselves. [Jas 1:22-25]

I have written this material to share some personal revelations and realizations that have contributed to the development of this foundation in my own life. I am still growing in these things. I pray that they will also inspire you as you seek to gain consistency in developing a strong and consistent prayer life for yourself. I believe they will produce a revelation in you that will cause you to want to once again give attention to this essential foundation of a consistent, personal prayer life.

◆ **Prayer is "MY TIME with Him."**

The more I have this mindset about prayer, the more I find myself guarding my time of prayer and becoming possessive about it. Prayer is my time with God! I have come to realize that I cannot function optimally without it.

PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, **let your requests be made known to God**; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

PHILIPPIANS 4:6 (NLT)

Don't worry about anything; instead, **pray about everything**. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done.

What an invitation! What an opportunity! I am invited to pray about EVERYTHING, making my requests known to the living God — My Father.

With this privileged opportunity in mind...

- ◆ **Prayer is no longer a duty for me. Prayer is A PLACE of fellowship which allows me the opportunity to establish my faith and trust in God!**

Prayer is A PLACE. It's a place I HAVE and a place that I TAKE. I am invited to come boldly to the throne of God's grace! Prayer is a processing place, where I process things from my heart with my Father. Prayer is also my receiving place, where I receive mercy and grace.

HEBREWS 4:16

Let us therefore **come boldly to the throne of grace**, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

The Prophet Elijah would often speak about the Lord God in this context, “before Whom I stand.” [1 Ki 17:1] Now, through the blood of Christ and God's perfect work of righteousness within me, I can say the same — “My Father God, before whom I stand.” He has given me this honored place!

Prayer is a place of fellowship which allows me the opportunity to establish my faith. What do I mean by “establishing my faith”?

Well, I understand that faith in God doesn't come through my prayers. In other words, I don't pray for more faith. Faith comes BY HEARING — by hearing God's Word to me personally. [Rom 10:17] This is also why I bring my Bible with me into prayer.

So, although I don't pray that God will give me more faith, I do understand that my life of prayer is a great contributor to me being **in a place to hear** what the Lord wants to communicate to me, so that faith can come! Prayer is a big part of my life of fellowship with God, where I can more easily pick up and discern His word, leading, and direction for me.

But beyond the benefit of hearing, **Prayer gives me the opportunity to rehearse to God what I know He has said and to “get in faith” with Him from my heart.**

- ◆ **My prayer time gives me ample time, place, and space to RELEASE my faith in God.**

JAMES 1:6

But **let him ask in faith, with no doubting**, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.

For my prayers to be effective, it's not enough for me to just utter words in prayer. Jesus taught us that we shouldn't think we will be heard for our “many words.” [Matt 6:7] It's vitally important that I pray “in faith” when I pray. Getting “in faith” doesn't take forever, but it does require some time and focus. **There is a spiritual exchange and transaction being made.**

- Ask and receive, that your joy may be made full. [Jn 16:24]
- Ask in faith, with no doubting. [Jas 1:6]
- Make your specific requests known to God [Phil 4:6]
- Casting all your cares upon Him. [1 Pet 5:7]

We are told to “work out our own salvation with fear and trembling.” [Phil 2:12] It takes time to work things out! Having a

consistent, established prayer time gives me this time. Although I don't pray for more faith, I now recognize that prayer is a main avenue through which I release my faith in God.

PROVERBS 3:5-6

Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
And lean not on your own understanding;
In all your ways acknowledge Him,
And He shall direct your paths.

- ◆ **For me, prayer is a place where I can “acknowledge Him” with various matters and receive His direction.**

How do I acknowledge Him in all my ways? One way is to make all matters a matter of prayer. Once again this takes time and some diligence. Living a consistent life of personal prayer affords me this time. *“Lord, what about this? Lord, what about that? I acknowledge You with this decision. I acknowledge Your will in this matter. What say You, Lord? Thank You for directing me in this. I offer this matter to You.”*

Why would I leave matters to chance when I can make them a matter of prayer?

Why would I rely on my finite and limited understanding of a situation when I can benefit from the assistance of the One who knows all things?

God's promise to me is that He will direct me in all matters that I take time to acknowledge Him with.

Without a consistent time of prayer, I find that I am more prone to living life based upon my own understanding, rather than with

God's direction. This is where mistakes are made which don't need to be made. This is where time is wasted which doesn't need to be wasted. If only I would acknowledge Him first!

We often think we don't have time to pray, but in reality we don't have time not to pray! Our lives are short. They are but a vapor in light of eternity. We are instructed to redeem the time in the midst of these evil days where we now live. [Eph 5:16; Jas 4:14]

Rather than just pushing ahead with our plans, as God's children we have the benefit of being able to acknowledge the Lord FIRST. He will be faithful to direct us if only we will spend enough time to check in with Him.

- ◆ **Prayer is a time of “sowing to the Spirit” which allows me to feel satisfied and on top of things in life, where I don't feel like I am always playing catch-up.**

GALATIANS 6:7-8

Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but **he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.**

Have you ever felt overwhelmed? Have you ever felt like you are consistently running behind? Have you ever felt like life was piling up around you, and you were being tossed around by life's circumstances, rather than being able to chart a constructive course forward, with solid, sound-minded decisions?

Have you ever felt like everything was moving too fast around you? This is not God's plan for you! This is not His design!

For me, these are all **signals** that I need to slow down and pray. These are **sure indicators** that I haven't been taking consistent time to sow to God's spiritual realm through my prayers.

- ◆ **Keeping a regular prayer time helps me to ACTIVATE, to TAP INTO, and to LIVE from the flow of the Spirit of God that is within me.**

JOHN 7:37-39

On 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. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, **out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.**" **But this He spoke concerning the Spirit...**

The Holy Spirit knows all things! The Holy Spirit has been sent to teach us all things! The Holy Spirit has been sent to reveal the will of the Father and then to empower us to carry out that will. Living a life of consistent personal prayer helps me to walk in the Spirit's higher flow for my life.

I have been designed by God to live my life with the Spirit's empowering ability from within me.

- ◆ **Living a life of consistent personal prayer helps me to live according to God's divine order for my life — spirit first.**

1 THESSALONIANS 5:23

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole **spirit, soul, and body** be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

God's order is "spirit first!" I am a spirit. I have a soul. I live in a body. My spirit is born of God and is in union with God. My spirit is in contact and communion with the Holy Spirit who is in me. I am not to let my body and feelings lead me. I am not to allow my mind and thinking to call all the shots.

I am designed to acknowledge the Holy Spirit inside me, and to allow Him to lead me, from the inside-out.

◆ **I am designed by God to live from the INSIDE-OUT.**

PROVERBS 4:23

Keep your heart with all diligence,
For out of it spring the issues of life.

MARK 14:38

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

I have been designed by God to spend the majority of my life purposefully and proactively ACTING at His direction and leading, rather than REACTING to life's circumstances. Living a consistent life of prayer enables me to do this as I take time to prioritize my inner man and sow to the spirit.

When I find myself merely REACTING in life and living from the OUTSIDE-IN it makes me feel uncomfortable. And I rightly should feel uncomfortable! Something is not right! This is contrary to God's design for me. A consistent prayer life helps me keep things in the right order — spirit first!

Why I Like To Pray:

Here are a few reasons I enjoy living a consistent lifestyle of personal prayer.

(See if you can identify with any of these for yourself. You won't contend for something with little or no perceived benefit.)

- It allows me to build up my INNER MAN. [Jude 20]
- It's my opportunity to make my petitions known and sort things out from my heart with God. [Phil 4:6]
- It keeps me in a state of readiness and watchfulness. I feel on top of things! [Mk 14:38]
- It helps me to remain spiritually offensive. [Rom 8:14]
- It keeps me genuinely EXPECTANT because I'm really on the lookout both within and without for what I have been praying about. [Mk 11:24]

What benefits do you notice when you enjoy quality times of personal prayer?

We should each establish the foundation of A ROUTINE PRAYER LIFESTYLE. (We regularly take time out to pray.)

If a prayer life is so crucial to our success **why don't we do it?**
Why isn't it getting done?

(Two areas highlighted by the Holy Spirit)

1. We have not yet made prayer a PRIORITY.

(We fail to prioritize it.)

- We are not intentional about praying.
- We are not deliberate about praying.

- We leave prayer to chance, based upon how we feel or if we have left-over time.
- THERE IS NO PLAN.

“We should each establish HABITS, ROUTINES, and RITUALS that serve us.”

“Wise people determine what matters most in their lives and then they prioritize it—they make time and even schedule time for it.”

Do you have any habits, rituals, or routines that you have thoughtfully put into place to make sure that your personal prayer life remains a priority and is not an afterthought? Is there any sort of gameplan?

2. We lack DISCIPLINE.

- We may have the best of intentions, but something always gets in the way.
- We lack boundaries.
- We stay up too late.
- We feed on worthless shows and content.
- We say yes to everyone and everything.

Satan hates you having an established life of prayer! He will do whatever he can to deter and distract you from establishing this foundation. But we also know that he is defeated and is powerless against the child of God who moves with faith and intention.

If we become serious and intentional about establishing a regular prayer time, the Holy Spirit will help us with STRATEGIES in

regard to the best TIMES and PLACES to pray, even helping us to troubleshoot potential prayer obstacles in advance. **WE MUST HAVE A PLAN!**

Personal Notes



Personal Notes





PART TWO

“A Plan of the Spirit”

It is the Spirit who gives life;
the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you
are spirit, and they are life.

JOHN 6:63

Why is the foundation of a consistent, personal prayer life so important?

Because the plan of God is a plan of the Holy Spirit. It is a spiritual plan that manifests in this natural world.

1 CORINTHIANS 2:9-14

But as it is written:

“Eye has not seen, nor ear heard,

Nor have entered into the heart of man

**The things which God has prepared for those
who love Him.”**

But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. **Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that**

we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.

These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which **the Holy Spirit teaches**, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man does not receive **the things of the Spirit of God**, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because **they are spiritually discerned**.

God's plans cannot be known merely through natural, physical means and methods. *"The natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God."* Neither can they be discerned by outward observation alone. God's plans must be *"spiritually discerned."* This requires the Holy Spirit and the revelation that only He can bring to me.

And God's plans must be lived out from within—from our spirits! Having a consistent, personal prayer life puts me in a position to not only discern God's plans for my life, but then it also empowers me to walk in those plans. God's plans are Spirit-empowered plans!

PSALM 18:28-29 (KJV)

For thou wilt light my candle: the Lord my God will enlighten my darkness. For by thee I have run through a troop; and by my God have I leaped over a wall.

As I spend time in prayer, I am giving the Holy Spirit opportunity to *"light my candle"* and to *"enlighten my darkness."* This is Him turning on the light of the revelation of His will and plan inside me. This empowers me to live and operate from a dimension that is beyond the natural.

- ◆ **Consistent prayer allows me a place to SEEK GOD and to CALL OUT for that which has already been prepared — His plans for my life.**

JEREMIAH 29:11-13 (NIV)

“For **I know the plans** I have for you,” declares the Lord, “**plans** to prosper you and not to harm you, **plans** to give you hope and a future. **Then you will call on me** and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. **You will seek me** and find me when you seek me with all your heart.”

God has plans. This is a revelation in and of itself! Many people make their own plans and then ask God to bless them. Knowing that God has a plan for me is just the start however. A revelation of the reality of God's plan necessitates that I “*call on Him*” regarding that plan. This is not just something I do one time. It is an ongoing process.

- ◆ **Prayer is a place where I can ask God about MY FUTURE and about things yet UNKNOWN.**

JEREMIAH 33:3

‘Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.’

What if I invest LESS TIME calling upon Him? What will be the result? Well, I will know LESS than I could know. And what if I spend MORE TIME calling upon Him, and inquiring of Him? I will know MORE! Why wouldn't I pray more? It's an investment in my future.

Here's a great truth: **Those who pray more tend to know more. They have greater insight and awareness as to God's plans and purposes, not only for their own lives, but also for humanity in general.**

By making time for regular, consistent times of prayer—calling unto Him—it gives God the time and place necessary to be able to show me things about my future. He is able to show me things that I didn't know or had never even thought about!

- ◆ **A consistent prayer life enables me to STAY OUT AHEAD with my prayers, partaking of that which has been planned and prepared for me.**

This is in contrast to always praying “catch-up prayer”, where my prayers are limited to the immediate circumstances around me. My good Shepherd has gone BEFORE ME and wants to help me pray about what He has prepared, and not just my immediate needs.

JOHN 10:3-4

To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and **he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.**

And when he brings out his own sheep, **he goes before them**; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.

◆ **God wants to SHOW US things in prayer.**

(We can develop faith for this through hearing His Word.)

JOHN 16:12-15 (KJV)

I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when he, **the Spirit of truth**, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and **he will shew you things to come.**

He shall glorify me: for **he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.** All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that **he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you.**

PSALM 25:12-14

Who is the man that fears the Lord?
Him shall He teach in the way He chooses.
He himself shall dwell in prosperity,
And his descendants shall inherit the earth.
**The secret of the Lord is with those who fear Him,
And He will show them His covenant.**

JOHN 15:13-15

“Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends. You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but **I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.**”

JOHN 5:19-20

Then Jesus answered and said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but **what He sees the Father do**; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner. **For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel.**

How exactly did the Father show Jesus things to come? In prayer! He often withdrew to pray. How and where will He show us? In the same place — in our prayer place with Him.

LUKE 5:16

So He (Jesus) often withdrew into the wilderness and prayed.

MARK 1:35

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

LUKE 6:12

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

Jesus was THE SAMPLE SON — a pattern for us to follow.

If the FIRST SON had to spend significant time with the Father in prayer to accomplish His earthly mission, so will ALL THE SONS. That's you and me!

Personal Notes



Personal Notes





PART THREE

“Recognizing the Opportunity”

His lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’

MATTHEW 25:21

In this little book, we are emphasizing the importance and necessity of developing a personal, consistent prayer life. This is fundamental and foundational to our success in faithfully fulfilling God’s plan and destiny for our lives.

It’s time to examine our foundations by asking ourselves some questions:

- Do I have a consistent, quality prayer life?
- Have I established habits, rituals, and routines which result in me having the time necessary to pray and seek God? What are they?
- Do I only pray when the church or ministry calls for prayer? Or do I find myself separating myself unto God to pray regardless?

WHY DO I PRAY? For me, I pray because the opportunity is so great!

It helps me when I am reminded of WHO is inviting me to pray and what's available for me as I do pray.

MATTHEW 6:6

But 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.**

There is OPEN REWARD awaiting those who pray to the Father in secret. God desires to reward me OPENLY.

MATTHEW 11:28 (MSG)

“Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. **Walk with me and work with me**—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay any thing heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly.”

What has The Lord made available to me?

The opportunity to “Walk with Him and to work with Him.”

Walking with God and working with God is in contrast to merely working FOR GOD. My mentality must change! I am now renewing my mind to who I have become in Christ and my role...

- (1) as **a son of God** and
- (2) as **God's partner.**

I renew my mind to these New Testament realities:

- My life = a life of **partnership** with God
[1 Jn 1:3; 1 Cor 1:9; 2 Cor 13:14]
Greek: “koinonia” - fellowship, a sharing together

This is my renewed mindset:

“I’m God’s partner on the earth. I now do things TOGETHER WITH HIM.”

- My life = a life of **sonship**
[Jn 1:12; Rom 8:15; Gal 3:26]

This is my renewed mindset:

*“I have been called into the Father’s family business of **‘Father & Sons.’**”*

I share together with my Father in His kingdom, family business. He has things to show me about my part in that operation, including what He has prepared and how He wants things done. [Jn 16:13]

SO WHERE DOES A LIFE OF PRAYER FIT IN HERE? Without regular, consistent, personal times of prayer, I won’t know and discern these things as I ought to know them. They will be indistinct to me. I will lack the spiritual edification necessary **to lay hold** of what He has prepared for me, and then **to hold fast** to it. [1 Tim 6:12; Rev 3:11]

As I renew my mind to **my true identity** and the part I am to play with the Father in His eternal plans, the reality of the opportunity set before me shines brighter and clearer! God’s Word unveils who I am, and WHAT’S AVAILABLE FOR ME as His partner.

The following verses open my heart and expand my view into this opportunity. They help paint a picture for me of my role in this eternal equation.

◆ **I'm an HEIR OF GOD.**

I am God's heir and a joint-heir with Jesus Christ. (A co, equal heir) As God's heir, I am a sharer together in what is His.

ROMANS 8:16-17

The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that **we are children of God, and if children, then heirs — heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ**, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.

◆ **I am an HEIR OF THE WORLD.**

As Abraham's seed, I AM AN HEIR OF THE WORLD. (By grace through faith)

ROMANS 4:13

For the promise that he would be **the heir of the world** was not to Abraham or to his seed through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.

GALATIANS 3:29

And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

◆ **I am A PARTAKER OF THE HEAVENLY CALLING with Jesus.**

HEBREWS 3:1

Therefore, holy brethren, **partakers of the heavenly calling**, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus,

This is what the Father has in mind for me! But the question is: WHAT DO I HAVE IN MIND FOR ME? How do I really see myself? I can only walk together with God to the degree that I am in agreement with Him. [Amos 3:3]

Have I settled for a merely natural existence, “doing the best that I can” in life? Or, am I tapping into God’s supernatural plan and ability which is available to me as I spend consistent time with Him in prayer?

The Holy Spirit spoke this:

**“My people have settled for the crumbs of religiosity.”
All the while God has called us into a life of partnership
with Him — a sharing together with Him.**

This is why my personal prayer life and prayer time is so important. **“I’M NOW A SHARER IN HIS!”**

This changes the way I pray forever! I’m no longer at odds with God. I’m not an outsider! I have been reconciled to Him through Christ, and He is now working in me to do His will. [Phil 2:13] I know exactly what I am on planet earth for — to do His will!

These are amazing revelations that continually upgrade my prayer paradigm and perspective. **They empower me to pray from a higher place.** They help me to perceive THE OPPORTUNITY placed before me and the role that prayer plays in the facilitating of these things.

I further renew my mind to these truths:

- ◆ **The Father is thinking about me ruling over cities in His eternal kingdom.**

LUKE 19:17

And he said to him, ‘Well done, good servant; because you were faithful in a very little, **have authority over ten cities.**’

- ◆ **The Father is thinking about me ruling over “all his goods” in some capacity or another.**

MATTHEW 24:45-47

“Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season? Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing. Assuredly, I say to you that **he will make him ruler over all his goods.**”

I am training for reigning now. [2 Tim 2:12]

I am proving faithful with my portion of the Father’s business now in this life. This is the opportunity set before me! [Lk 2:49]

I now understand from the words of Jesus, that **faithfulness gets the prize**. This is what He is looking for. This is what shall be rewarded — faithfulness!

AND WHAT IS FAITHFULNESS?

Simply put, **“faithfulness is handling something that belongs to another person the way they want it handled.”**

As God's child, I have been entrusted with a stewardship. I have been entrusted with my own portion of that which is the Father's. But it's not just HIS. It's also MINE, because I am His heir and a partaker together with Him. I am a co-laborer with Him. The primary requirement from me in this stewardship is FAITHFULNESS. [1 Cor 4:1,2; 1 Cor 3:8]

Faithful people won't find themselves being accidentally faithful.

Faithful people are those who offer themselves to the One to Whom they desire to be faithful.

My prayer times give me the opportunity to continually offer myself to Him so as to be supernaturally aligned.

Faithful people take time to ASK and INQUIRE as to their portion. *"Lord, what is mine from You? What have You prepared for me? How do You want these things handled?"*

This is where a consistent, personal prayer life becomes so vital. There is certainly plenty to pray about! **My personal prayer life is a necessary component to my life of faithfulness.**

2 TIMOTHY 1:14

That good thing which was committed to you,
keep by the Holy Spirit who dwells in us.

Those things He has committed to me must be kept. They must be guarded. But first they should be inventoried. They can only be successfully guarded and stewarded by the Holy Spirit. Much of this is done in prayer.

JEREMIAH 33:3

‘Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.’

With an invitation like that, WHY WOULDN'T I CALL UNTO HIM?
He still has so much more to show me!

Personal Notes



Personal Notes





PART FOUR

First “In You”

for it is God who works IN YOU
both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

PHILIPPIANS 2:13

I am now embracing my new identity as “a son of God” and the opportunity being given to me as God’s partner on earth. But for me to successfully carry out my part of this partnership, **I must learn to recognize and understand God’s working in my life.** I must understand HOW He desires to carry out this partnership so that I can cooperate with it. Having this understanding always calls me back to prayer!

- ◆ **In a life of partnership, I recognize that I now do things TOGETHER WITH THE LORD.**

This is a statement that has helped me greatly:

**Whatever God does FOR YOU, He will first do it IN YOU,
so that He can do it TOGETHER WITH YOU.**

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE GOD DO FOR YOU? We all want to see God do things FOR US, right?

But as God's partner, it's important that I understand His working in my life. I'm not a beggar. I'm not an outsider anymore. I'm God's heir — His son — His partner. Before He does a thing FOR ME, He wants to first work that thing IN ME. Why? So that He can do it TOGETHER WITH ME.

- "If you can believe, all things are possible to those who believe." [Mk 9:23]
- "Be it done unto me according to Your word." [Lk 1:38]
- "That it may come to pass which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet." [Matt 1:22]
- "Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us." [Eph 3:20]

This is the outward working of the kingdom of God from the inside of me! This is me *"walking with Him and working with Him."*

Understanding these realities help me in my thinking, refocusing my labors where they belong — INSIDE ME. Having a consistent, personal prayer time is a vital part of facilitating the work of God's Word and the Holy Spirit, within me. There are important, eternal matters that need to be settled, FIRST inside me!

How can I be a conduit of the Father's will, power, and purpose if I am still at odds with Him inside me? It just won't work!

Giving myself to prayer allows me to access God's amazing grace and the reality of "His working" in me. He will provide supernatural alignment with Him as I give myself to Him in prayer.

◆ **The kingdom of God is within me.**

LUKE 17:21

nor will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there!' For indeed, **the kingdom of God is within you.**"

◆ **The Holy Spirit is INSIDE ME.**

1 CORINTHIANS 6:19

Or do you not know that your body is the temple of **the Holy Spirit who is in you**, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?

◆ **I now live my life with God from the INSIDE-OUT.**

MARK 4:26-29

And He said, "**The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground**, and should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how.

For the earth yields crops by itself: first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head. But when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come."

◆ **Greater than what is happening TO ME or AROUND ME is what is happening IN ME.**

1 JOHN 4:4

You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because **He who is in you is GREATER** than he who is in the world.

What is happening outside of me is always subject to the greater reality of God's Word and working WITHIN ME. YET, WHERE AM I FOCUSED? To what am I giving my attention?

My prayer life helps me keep my focus where it belongs — on the Father, His Word, and His working IN ME. [2 Cor 4:18]

1 THESSALONIANS 5:5

You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness.

JOHN 1:5 (NLT)

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it.

I am now a “son of light.” The entrance of the Father's words and His witness to me in times of prayer and fellowship give me light! [Ps 119:130] As I walk with Him in that light, His light shines in the dark world around me. I become unstoppable with Him! The darkness can never stop the light! [Ps 18:28-29]

This is a demonstration of the kingdom of God from WITHIN ME — a kingdom which rules over all! [Ps 103:19]

PROVERBS 4:23

Keep your heart with all diligence,
For out of it spring the issues of life.

Where do the forces that affect my life flow from? They flow out **from my heart** (inside me). This word “issues” literally refers to “the forces” and “the boundaries” of my life.

The boundaries and limiting forces in my life are not without (outside of me). They are within. **I can change my life by changing what's happening INSIDE ME.** All of this is facilitated through a consistent life of prayer and time spent with the Father.

This is why the Lord gave me this phrase, *"Manage your heart. Manage your life."* In other words, the most significant way you can manage your life is to give attention to and prioritize the cultivation of what's happening inside you. As you spend time with God, He will always work with you here FIRST. This is His process. This is His way. This is His order.

For me, this happens as I consistently behold My Father and His Word to me, giving myself to His Spirit in times of prayer. My consistent, personal prayer life is a significant part of that cultivation.

Personal Notes





PART FIVE

“How We See Prayer”

But 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.

In this manner, therefore, pray:
Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be Your name.
Your kingdom come.
Your will be done
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
As we forgive our debtors.
And do not lead us into temptation,
But deliver us from the evil one.
For Yours is the kingdom and the power
and the glory forever. Amen.

MATTHEW 6:6,9-13

As we seek to establish this FOUNDATION and FUNDAMENTAL of a consistent, personal prayer time and prayer life, it can be helpful to dig around in our prayer foundations to talk about and dissect “how we see prayer.” **How we view something will always affect our approach to it.**

LUKE 14:16-17

Then He said to him, “A certain man gave a great supper and invited many, and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, ‘**Come, for all things are now ready.**’”

PSALM 23:1,5

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; my cup runs over.

There is so much on the table for us! The Father has already prepared all things. His call to us is this: “*Come! For all things are now ready.*”

There are good works prepared for each one of us IN ADVANCE. These things have already been planned, and even recorded in a book before time began. I don’t know about you, but I want to know about THESE THINGS! [Eph 2:10; Ps 139:16; 2 Tim 1:9]

Prayer for me is A RECEIVING PLACE

Too many of us are leaving much of what has been prepared and made ready for us just sitting on the table! Why? Largely, because of how we see prayer. It’s time for us to adjust our mindsets so as to align them with God. [Amos 3:3]

Prayer ≠ me pushing for what I want
Prayer = me receiving “His”

For me, the place of prayer is not a place that I go to PUSH for the things I want (i.e., basically begging and pleading). What a misunderstanding and misuse of who God has made me to be in Christ,

and of all that I have been given! **Instead, the place of prayer is a place I go to RECEIVE, PROCESS, and AUTHORIZE “His.”**

Prayer allows me to receive HIS. When I write about “HIS”, I’m referring to those things that God has planned and prepared for me. So for me, the place of prayer is my receiving place!

Remember, our life with the Father God is now one of “partnership.”

Through Christ, I am now a rightful heir to these things:

- **What God has said (His promises)**
- **What Christ has done (redemption)**
- **What the Father has prepared (God’s plans)**

This is why I never require a “crisis” to pray. I don’t just pray if, when, and because I have problems. **I pray because God has plans!** My prayer time enables me to stay on top of things spiritually so that I’m ready, both in season and out of season, to move into and possess these things. [2 Tim 4:2]

I don’t need an urgent pressing need to pray. I don’t need an unfortunate circumstance. For me, all I need to pray is **the revelation that My Father has plans!** *“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord...* [Jer 29:11, NIV]

As God’s heir, I share together with Him in those plans, and my prayers allow me to process those plans, first **INSIDE ME** and then out **FROM ME** — together **WITH HIM**.

This is what Jesus taught us to prioritize in prayer — *“Your kingdom come. Your will be done.”* We start **HERE** in prayer. Where? We start with God’s kingdom plan and His agenda — **“HIS.”**

For many people, so much energy is spent praying with this first mindset (pushing for what they want), that they never move over into this higher mindset (receiving, authorizing, and processing HIS).

This is often due to an immature and incomplete concept and view of prayer. Some have not recognized prayer for what it really is and for the opportunity it affords them. Again, prayer is not a place I go to push for what I want. Prayer is a place I go to receive HIS.

Receivers Will Reign!

ROMANS 5:17

For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more **THOSE WHO RECEIVE abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.**

The Lord reminded me of this phrase given many years ago — *“Receivers will reign.”*

All my “doing” begins with my RECEIVING. My first and highest call in life is to fellowship with God and to RECEIVE from Him.

I live out of that which I have freely received from Him.

“Freely I receive, freely I give.” [Matt 10:8]

I have been designed as God's receiver. **I give, reflect, and express that which I have received.** This is my life of partnership with The Father, The Word, and the Holy Spirit.

I am a “son of God.”

Sons receive from their Father. I now live from His supply.

Prayer for me is A REVELATION PLACE

Some never move beyond a “need-based” prayer life. If there is no obvious, perceived need, then there is no prayer. But through a renewed mindset, the Father wants to introduce us to a **“revelation-based” prayer life**, so that we can actually begin to partake of all that He has prepared!

Moving beyond my obvious need, this is the investment side of prayer. Through prayer, I am making an eternal investment by tapping into God’s eternal, foreordained plans for me.

HEBREWS 12:1-2

Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and **let us run with endurance the race that is set before us**, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith...

There is a particular, specific race (or course) set before me. In my prayer times, I’m communing with *“the author and finisher of my faith.”* Prayer not only allows me to discover the race God has “authored” for me, but it also gives me access to His continual supply of grace, so that what He has authored for me can also be “finished”! MY mind is being renewed, and my mindset is shifting!

Perhaps this is why many don’t enjoy prayer as they should.

It’s because of an inaccurate mindset. To some, prayer seems dry, difficult, boring, and laborious. Why? Because they see prayer as a place they need to go to PUSH and contend for their own agenda (what they want) and to make things happen. That’s tiresome!

But when you get **the revelation** that

- God has already prepared all things,
- that His plans for you are good,
- and that victory is waiting for you, **it changes everything!**

The Holy Spirit is my HELPER — including in prayer. [Jn 14:16]
But He is not present to help me push FOR WHAT I WANT. I simply won't find Him there. He is the Spirit of TRUTH. He will never help, support, or propagate a lie. This is not consistent with His ministry.

The Holy Spirit hasn't been sent to help me carry out "my plans", but to reveal what the Father has prepared, and then to help me to carry out His plans. [1 Cor 2:10]

The Holy Spirit will supernaturally help me to align myself with "everything God" and then empower me in those things. [Phil 2:13]
As it turns out, these are the things which truly satisfy me. God's plan is the place where my needs are met and my deepest desires are abundantly fulfilled! [Matt 6:33; Ps 36:8; Ps 145:16]

The Holy Spirit's ministry is to reveal and lead me into TRUTH, including what's already been done and what's already been prepared. (I find the Helper there!)

This is why praying the prayer found in Ephesians 1:15-22 is so powerful! This prayer doesn't limit me to the realm of my own immediate needs. It's a prayer based upon the information I now have from The Bible: **that Jesus has already done some things for me, and that The Father has already prepared some things for me.** These things are already mine!

A big reason I am not partaking of these things is simply because I haven't SEEN THEM yet. **But, I know that He desires to reveal them to me!** That's why I'm praying for "*a spirit of wisdom and REVELATION in the knowledge of Him.*"

This kind of mindset and praying will move me over into the life of partnership that God has ultimately called me to. I pray this prayer for myself and others routinely!

The prayer found in Ephesians 1:15-22 is a prayer for REVELATION of God, who I am in Christ, and all that He has done and prepared for me.

If you continue praying through the rest of this prayer in Ephesians 1 and even down into Ephesians 2, you will eventually reach the revelation of us as God's very "*workmanship*" (His masterpiece) in Christ, and "*the good works which God PREPARED BEFOREHAND that we should walk in them.*" [Eph 2:10]

In prayer, many never move over into praying about what God has prepared. They simply never get there! Why? They are too busy praying for their own agenda, their own desires, and their own perceived needs. Their limited view of prayer is as a place to come to God and to plead their case for what they want.

Certainly there is a place in prayer where we "make our requests known to God" and where we "plead our case." [Isa 43:26; Phil 4:6] We have already mentioned this. But even this should be done in partnership with our Father, after we have discovered His will from His Word. Our requests and our case should be based upon what He has revealed.

This is also where praying “in the spirit” (in tongues) becomes such a valuable and essential tool! **Praying with the supernatural utterances that the Holy Spirit gives me enables me to move over into God’s supernatural, revelation agenda, rather than just my own.**

MATTHEW 16:21-23

From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day.

Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, “Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!”

But He turned and said to Peter, **“Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.”**

I learn from this verse that it’s possible to have our minds so full of men’s thoughts and agendas (including our own) that we are oblivious to God’s greater plan. As with Peter, **it’s possible to be in the very presence of Jesus and still only be full of what we want.** Unknowingly, this often keeps us on the devil’s territory. Thus, *“Get behind Me, Satan!”* The remedy for this is a revelation of God’s mind.

GOD’S MIND: This is what I am looking for in prayer.

The *“mind of Christ”* and *“the mind of the Spirit”* are now available to me.

1 CORINTHIANS 2:14-16

But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one. For “who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him?” But **we have the mind of Christ.**

ROMANS 8:26-27

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. Now He who searches the hearts knows what **the mind of the Spirit** is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

God wants to literally give us “a piece of His mind” as we pray! He wants to share His “thoughts” with us. [Isa 55:8-11] God’s thoughts are revealed through His words. God’s words will prosper in the purpose for which He sent them. What purpose is that? So that we can think His higher thoughts!

This is also why **I like to bring my Bible and a notebook into prayer, turned to a blank page.** I am there for His mind. I am there to receive His thoughts. I am there to get a piece of His mind. He wants to show me things to come! I am His partner, carrying out my portion of the Father’s family, kingdom business.

1 CORINTHIANS 1:4-5

I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given to you by Christ Jesus, that **you were enriched in everything by Him in all utterance** and all knowledge,

God is also faithful to “enrich my utterance” in prayer when I ask Him. He enables me to speak and communicate with Him in a supernatural way, even speaking forth certain things by the Holy Spirit. [Eph 6:19; Acts 2:4]

Prayer for me is a DISCOVERY PLACE

Kenneth E. Hagin often taught us to pray this way: *“Father, **what I don’t know**...show me. **What I haven’t seen**, reveal to me. Prepare me for that which You have prepared for me.”*

How many people pray that way today? Have you prayed that way lately?

How do you see your prayer time? What purpose does it really serve in your life? Jesus desires to show us things to come!

ISAIAH 42:16

I will bring the blind by a way they did not know;

I will lead them in paths they have not known.

I will make darkness light before them,

And crooked places straight.

These things I will do for them,

And not forsake them.

In prayer I discover:

- Things UNKNOWN (Jer 33:3; Isa 42:16)
- Things UNSEEN (Jn 16:13)

God wants to make it known and make it seen!

1 CORINTHIANS 14:2

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.**

What are “mysteries”? They are divine secrets and hidden truths. Through “tongues” I enter in with the Holy Spirit where the mysteries are, where God’s secrets are kept and revealed.

When I spend time speaking out God’s mysteries in tongues it helps to facilitate God’s revelation process in my life.

Mysteries prayed out bring revelation!

When was the last time you asked the Father to show you these things — **things not yet known and things not yet seen**? Many never get this far in prayer. Why? Because of how they see prayer. Because of their limited view of prayer.

What I am describing here is an entirely different “lane” to pray in, much different than pushing for what you want in prayer. Instead we are praying about what God wants and what He has prepared!

What is the Lord doing in the earth today? **“He’s building a people who have the CAPACITY to receive HIS.”**

I now recognize that my CAPACITY (mentioned above) is enlarged as I give The Lord TIME and PLACE through prayer. He has to get it IN ME!

Much of my “receiving of His” is done in prayer. My personal prayer time has become foundational and fundamental.

If I am too full of “my own” it’s very difficult or impossible to receive HIS. Jesus taught us that the cares and preoccupations of our own life, and our own desires for other things would **CHOKE**

OUT what God wants to accomplish in us and for us. [Mk 4:18-19]
There isn't room for everything! It can't all grow together.

Here's a faithful indicator and locator of oneself:
**You can always tell what you are full of by those things
that you pray about the most.**

The question I ask myself is this: What lane am I praying in when I pray?

Am I spending all my prayer efforts and energies coming to God to push for what I want? Is that how I see prayer? Or have I allowed the Holy Spirit to help me step over into the prayer lane where I can discover all that He has prepared for me?

I pray that this book is **enlarging your capacity and feeding your faith** to begin to ask more and more for all that God has prepared for you!

I'm not suggesting that all our labors have been in vain thus far, or that we should quit all that we are currently doing for a life of full-time prayer and receiving. **Our walk with God is progressive!**

But what I am suggesting is this: that to merely live a busy life, even "busy for the Lord" without establishing a personal prayer life and prayer time will result in much of what God has prepared for you to be left "sitting on the table" — untapped and unrealized. **There is so much more!**

Personal Notes



Personal Notes





PART SIX

“Edified for the Conflict”

**“Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation.
The spirit indeed is willing,
but the flesh is weak.”**

MATTHEW 26:41

Establishing the foundation of a consistent, personal prayer life and prayer time goes well beyond “keeping a Christian devotion.” Through God’s Word, we now have more understanding than that. We are able to move beyond mere “religiosity” in terms of our prayer lives. There is much more at play and at stake here.

One main reason I find a consistent prayer life to be essential for me is because of the reality of the conflict. The conflict is real! And I must be edified for this conflict.

Don’t forget:

- **WHERE YOU LIVE**
- **WHAT YOU ARE UP AGAINST**
- **THE VALUE AND SIGNIFICANCE OF A STRONG INNER MAN**

PHILIPPIANS 2:12-16

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

Do all things without complaining and disputing, that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault **in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation**, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.

GALATIANS 1:3-4

Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from **this present evil age**, according to the will of our God and Father,

1 JOHN 5:18-19

We know that whoever is born of God does not sin; but he who has been born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him.

We know that we are of God, and **the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one.**

The Bible truth is this: we are living in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation. The present age we are living in now is “evil.” The world around us is largely under Satan’s sway and influence.

The spirit of the world is an anti-Christ spirit. (Read 1 John) That means that the system of the world around you is contrary to what

you desire to pursue in devotion and obedience to Christ. That means there is resistance! That's why your walk with God and pursuit of His will must always be done with intentionality and purpose of heart. Establishing a consistent, personal prayer life and prayer time is part of that.

ACTS 11:23

When he came and had seen the grace of God, he was glad, and encouraged them all that **with purpose of heart they should continue with the Lord.**

But something more than a good heart and good intentions is required. We must also have strength in the inner man to stay on course with what God has planned and prepared for us.

If I forget where I live and the reality of what I am up against, it is all too easy to let my guard down, slip into neutral mode, and begin to drift downstream with the spirit of the world, rather than intentionally moving forward and taking ground with a strong inner man.

I'm mindful of this reality: **I have an OPPONENT. Someone is opposed to me and even strategizing against me. I'm not afraid. However, I am aware.** [2 Tim 1:7; 2 Cor 2:11]

1 PETER 5:8-9

Be sober, be vigilant; because **your adversary the devil** walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.

We have an ADVERSARY (literally an "opponent"). In light of this truth, the Scripture calls on us to be "*sober and vigilant.*" Clearly the

devil is devouring people today, even God's people, but he need not devour you! With a sober mind and a watchful eye you can **“resist him, steadfast in the faith.”** As you submit to God and resist the devil, he will flee from you! [Jas 4:7]

In athletics, everything may seem to be running smoothly during practices and while you are running drills, UNTIL the reality of **an opponent is introduced**. This changes everything! Now it's gametime!

What we are discussing here in regard to our personal prayer time is not meant to be theoretical. It's designed for real life gametime! It's designed to be USED and PUT INTO PRACTICE. [Heb 5:14] Whether you like to think about it or not, you have an opponent who is against you and wishes to devour you!

In life, every day is “gametime.” This should be our mentality. There are no “days off” in terms of the conflict around us.

This doesn't mean that life should be mundane, monotonous, boring, and only routine as we seek to employ certain disciplines (i.e., a consistent prayer life) Variety in life is a blessing! Vacations, rest days, family celebrations, and spontaneity are a necessary and beautiful part of life! But always remember that even though you are resting, on vacation, or enjoying time with family, IT'S STILL GAMETIME! Your adversary (opponent) never takes a day off.

THIS IS OUR MENTALITY:

We never let our guard down.

We don't wait for trouble to pray.

We pray even when everything seems smooth and good.

We pray always, especially right after a victory.

We give the devil no place!

Do I really have to pray? Is all this really necessary?

Words from the Holy Spirit:

“You don’t have to do any of this personal prayer stuff. You don’t have to establish a consistent personal prayer life. BUT YOU SHOULD BE INFORMED that there is a God for you to submit to and receive from, and there is a devil for you to resist. And this requires strength of spirit and purpose of heart.”

We also must overcome “the weakness of the flesh.” This is something that is common to each of us no matter how long we have walked with God or the level of our spiritual maturity. The flesh remains weak and must be kept in subjection to the life of God flowing from our inner man. [Rom 8:12-13]

ROMANS 6:19

I speak in human terms because of **the weakness of your flesh**. For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness.

MATTHEW 26:41

“Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but **the flesh is weak**.”

Because of where we live and what we are up against, we should diligently apply **disciplines and boundaries**. We should seek to establish **habits, rituals, and routines** that serve us and even protect us.

Remember:

*“Wise people (that’s you!) decide what matters most and then make time for **THOSE THINGS**.”*

“Wise people prioritize the most important things.”

PROVERBS 9:12

“If you are wise, you are wise for yourself, and if you scoff, you will bear it alone.”

Wisdom is the principal thing. [Prov 4:7] Let’s do ourselves a favor and apply wisdom in these areas. If you are wise, you are wise for yourself!

Strength in the Inner Man

EPHESIANS 3:14-19

For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, **to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man**, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height — to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

I have an outer man. I have an inner man. [2 Cor 4:16]

- I should be sure to prioritize my INNER LIFE, knowing that I am designed to live from the INSIDE-OUT.
- If my inner life isn’t strong, what’s going on outside me and around me is more likely to dominate and control me.

GALATIANS 6:8

For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.

- Whatever part of me I feed and sow toward (flesh or spirit) will get stronger. I should sow toward and make investments in my INNER MAN.
- Whatever I feed upon and practice, I will become stronger in.
- Strength in the inner man can be found in part through a consistent personal prayer life.

JUDE 20

But you, beloved, **building yourselves up** on your most holy faith, **praying in the Holy Spirit**,

- I won't accidentally be strong. Application is required on my part. I must OFFER and YIELD myself to the Holy Spirit.
- Knowledge alone doesn't ensure strength.

Having Bible knowledge is valuable, and even critical. We will be destroyed without it! [Hos 4:6] But knowledge alone won't make us strong. **God's strength is something we PARTAKE OF.**

God's strength is available to us as we *"work out our own salvation with fear and trembling."* As we pray, The Father God *"strengthens us with might by the Holy Spirit in our inner man."* [Phil 2:12; Eph 3:16] We must take time to come to God and to drink of His Spirit. [Jn 7:37-39; 1 Cor 12:13]

As essential as good doctrine is in my life, I should also ask myself, *"Have I heard from Him lately?"* I don't live by my doctrine. My

doctrine serves as my foundation. But I live by my faith! And faith comes from hearing from God as I fellowship with Him. [Hab 2:4; Rom 10:17]

ISAIAH 40:28-31

Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The everlasting God, the Lord,
The Creator of the ends of the earth,
Neither faints nor is weary.
His understanding is unsearchable.
He gives power to the weak,
And to those who have no might He increases strength.
Even the youths shall faint and be weary,
And the young men shall utterly fall,
But **those who wait on the Lord**
shall renew their strength;
They shall mount up with wings like eagles,
They shall run and not be weary,
They shall walk and not faint.

Our long-term success with God and His will is not a willpower endeavor. It's not a matter of physical youth, vigor, and vitality. It's not merely a matter of making a determination to do better. (i.e., "Yeah, let's do this!!")

For those who learn how to "wait on the Lord" and access strength in the inner man, **there is yet another gear available!** It's a supernatural gear, greater than any natural vigor, strength, and human determination. It's a gear that will enable you to mount up supernaturally and to continue when others fade away.

This is the Spirit-empowered life. This is a life where we are "*strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.*" [Eph 6:10] **I find this greater gear as I wait on the Lord and receive from Him in prayer.**

One of the goals of my prayer time: EDIFICATION (this is strength in my inner man).

One significant way that I become personally edified is by spending significant time praying in tongues.

1 CORINTHIANS 14:2,4

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.

He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church.

How can I tell when I'm edified?

When I'm edified:

- **I'm ready!** There is a spiritual deposit on hand, giving me quick and easy access to God's Spirit within me for whatever the occasion demands. I find myself to be **more efficient spiritually**, affecting my natural life.
- I find the strength, desire, and presence of mind **to deal with things and to put things in order**. I begin to once again take charge!
- **The natural world around me** (which can be so loud and demanding when I'm not edified and merely focused on natural things) **begins to "slow down" and "quiet down" from my perspective**. My spirit begins to ascend, gain altitude, and mount up with the Lord so that I can properly see things for what they really are and then deal with them according to God's Word and His leading.

- **I become more sensitive** to the Holy Spirit's leading and to His often gentle promptings.

A powerful quote from a great man of God:

“He who shuts away his spirit (ignores or fails to give attention to his inner man) will become easy prey to selfish and designing people, but he who listens to his spirit (is led by the Spirit within) will rise to the top in life!”

ROMANS 8:14-16

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For 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.” **The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit** that we are children of God,

Sons of God are led by the Holy Spirit WITHIN. This is a by-product of a strong inner man! A STRONG INNER MAN is a by-product of a consistent personal prayer life.

As a son of God, I am NOT to be led or dominated by:

- my emotions
- my body
- my feelings
- pressure from people
- needs around me
- my family
- persecution from others

I am led by the Spirit of God and His witness WITHIN.

I am no longer REACTING to the natural world around me with all its sights, sounds, voices, feelings, inputs, impulses, and demands. Through a strong inner man, I'm now aware of The Greater One and His help INSIDE ME!

The Father has already charted my course! The Holy Spirit and I are now blazing the trail! Rather than REACTING to the world around me, I'm ACTING on God's Word at the direction of His Spirit. As I do, He causes me to *"mount up with wings like eagle's."*

The Holy Spirit and I are now calling the shots! I'm enjoying the fruit of a strong inner man! THIS IS WHY MY PRAYER LIFE MATTERS.

Personal Notes



APPENDIX

A PRAYER TO RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT

“But you shall receive power
when the Holy Spirit has come upon you;
and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem...”

ACTS 1:8

The moment you receive Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior, the Holy Spirit comes to dwell **within you**. You then have become the temple or dwelling place of God's Spirit. But there is more of the Holy Spirit that God wants you to experience!

The promise of the Spirit was given to empower us to walk in the plan that God has prepared for us. The Holy Spirit is God's gift to us, His children, so that we can enter into all the fullness of God! All we must do is **receive this gift**. This experience is called the baptism of the Holy Spirit, or the Holy Spirit coming **upon us**.

If you want to experience the fullness of life that God intended for you to have with the benefit of praying in tongues, pray this simple prayer from your heart:

*“Heavenly Father, I come to You in the Name of Jesus.
Your Word says that You will give the Holy Spirit to those
who ask You. I ask You now to fill me with Your Holy Spirit.
I want to experience Your fullness in my life!”*

A PRAYER TO RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT

"I release my faith and expect to speak with other tongues as the Holy Spirit will give me the utterance. I thank You, Father, for the gift of the Holy Spirit and the ability to speak with other tongues. In Jesus' Name. Amen!"

Building A LIFE OF PRAYER



Securing the Foundation
of My Personal Prayer Life



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For more information about Joseph Kack or Joseph Kack Ministries International, please visit our resource website at JKMIASIA.ORG.

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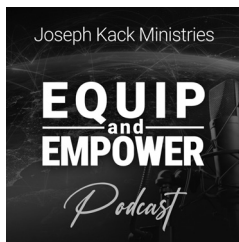
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