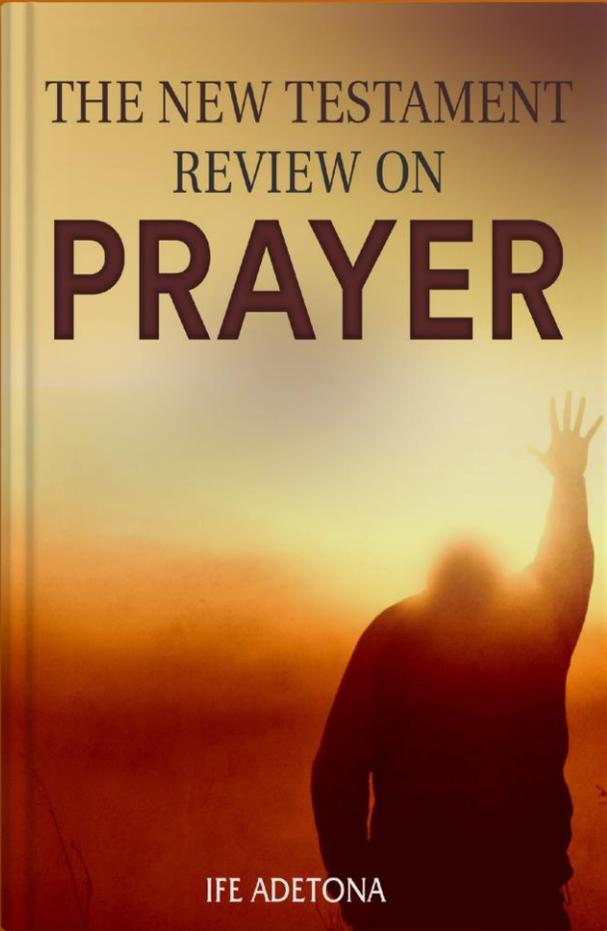


THE NEW TESTAMENT
REVIEW ON
PRAYER



IFE ADETONA

ABOUT THE BOOK

Praying is what the church does most. In fact, it is believed that a prayerless Christian is a powerless Christian. We believe so much in the efficacy of prayer that we prescribe it for all of life issues. What most believers don't understand however is that there is a "how" of prayer just as we have different kinds of prayer.

This book is a study on the subject of prayer from the New Testament perspective. The author starts by examining and explaining the lessons about prayer as taught by Christ. He then goes further to carefully highlight lessons about prayer taught by some of the apostles.

This book is a great resource to believers everywhere who believe in the efficacy of prayers. It will not only help you pray better; it will also help you pray effectively and get results.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Ife Adetona is an anointed preacher of the gospel. He is the President of the Sons and Daughters of Zion [SADOZ] Global Harvest Ministries. SADOZ is an interdenominational and discipleship ministry which has seen thousands of people baptized in the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking in tongues and helped people develop a friend to friend relationship with the Person of the Holy Spirit. SADOZ's daily discipleship and devotional manual called Daily Communion reaches and blesses tens of thousands of people daily to the glory of God.

The author is also the president of the Koinonia Bible Institute [KBI], an online training academy of SADOZ which offers over twenty (25) courses that cut across all facets of life. Some of the courses/schools are: School of Ministry, School of Purpose, School of Leadership, School of Business, School of Prayer, School of Deliverance, School of Healing, Masterclass on Sex Education, Masterclass on Courtship, School of Mental Health, School of Sex for the married and more.

Ife Adetona is an author of over 60 books that is imparting the body of Christ maximally. He is the husband of Elizabeth Ife-Adetona and their home is blessed with godly seeds.

New Testament Review On Prayer

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For further information or permission, contact:

sadozinternational@gmail.com

Facebook: @Sons and Daughters of Zion

YouTube: SADOZ International

Telegram: t.me/sadozite

WhatsApp/call: +2347060916344, +2347032063929

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scriptural quotations in this book are from the King James Version of the Bible.

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#1

Jesus on Prayer

And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, they have their reward
- Mathew 6:5

In the passage, Jesus gave two *don'ts* of prayer:

- a. *Don't Pray to be seen*
- b. *Don't repeat words in prayers.*

Did Jesus condemn praying in the Church? Absolutely No! Did He condemn people who preach and pray at the market square or those who pray for people in buses? Did He condemn any act of prayer in which you are sighted by another person? Absolutely not!

But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly. Mathew 6:6

Does this mean that the only place you could pray is inside your room and any other place is wrong? Absolutely not!

Common sense tells us that Jesus was addressing the issue of the mind. What is your mindset when you pray? Those in Jesus' days love to stand outside the Synagogues and other public places to make shows; those in our generation may not be like that. You hear hypocrites say: I prayed for 12 hours or I pray 2 hours every day and so on. They are not saying it for any good purpose than to show off. Jesus says they have their rewards already.

You can identify some people's voices in the Church amidst others. They shout the most, not for other reasons but show off. That's hypocritical. Go to prayer mountains, you will see several *prayer gymnastics styles* all for show off.

The second don't is: "*vain repetitions*". This is associated with pagans. They repeat a single phrase over and over again. You hear something like: let's repeat XXX for 100 times. But is that not the same we do in fellowships today? Repetition doesn't move God, only faith does. When you have a request to make to God, unnecessary repetition is not allowed. *Repetition is doubt not faith.*

Some people believe the louder you pray, the faster you are heard. Your loudness is for the prayer leader not God. God is not moved by noise or shout. Some people would say: "shout the loudest Amen". I was only a young boy when I reasoned that "if God answers prayer by loudness, how loud can I be to reach heaven?" Have you asked yourself the same?

God listens to the heart and faith; not to noise. He even knows what you need before you ask, so what does noise have to do with it? I have not said loud prayers are not good. I can become burdened in the spirit that I give an outcry. But my outcry is not the basis of God answering me, it's just the way I feel comfortable to express myself. And if I pray quietly, it doesn't hinder my prayer either. Let's stop all the exciting gimmicks of: "the louder you pray; the faster God hears".

Lastly, Jesus talked about "*closet prayers*". Aside, general gatherings among brethren and family, Christians need to develop an effective private prayer life.

#2

Prayer for the Unsaved

**Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth
labourers into his harvest - Mathew 9:38**

Have you come across any Bible passage where believers were told to pray for God to save the lost? You won't ever find such in the whole Scripture. God has saved all sinners even those yet to be born. All that is left is for sinners to accept salvation.

Jesus' death was God's plan for all sinners to be saved (John3:16). We are the ones left to do our own part by preaching the Gospel; for *faith comes by hearing, hearing the word of God (Romans 10:17)*.

Here, Jesus is telling us to pray for labourers to be sent to lost souls. God knows the best person that can win a particular sinner or nation. I remember praying in the spirit at a time when I had in a vision, I found myself in a town, I was speaking their language and I could decode the meaning. I was moving round, preaching the gospel in their language with a bell in my hand. What that meant was that my prayer at that time was for labourers to be sent to that particular land and at the same time, I was breaking all resistance to the gospel.

Many of us have unsaved (or black sheep) family members, relatives and neighbours. You don't pray that God should save them but you first, command every satanic veil on them to be removed then, you pray to God the Father to send labourers to harvest them. You can even be the one God would send in some cases.

It would be glorious if we make it a daily habit to put a particular person, family or nation in our prayers for God to send labourers to them. After you pray, believe it is answered and you will have the result.

Prayer demonstration: O Lord, I thank you for saving James Clowen that very moment you died on the cross over 2,000 years ago. I come against evil spirits blindfolding him from accepting the gospel in Jesus Name. I request that his heart be made ready unto repentance. I pray that you send a labourer to harvest his soul in Jesus Name. Thank you daddy for my brother, James is saved. Amen.

Note: Praying for the unsaved requires persistent declarations. This is because, they have the tendency of turning away your prayers since they are unbelievers and the devil has an influence over their lives but persistent declarations will surely get the job done. In my own case, I prefer to keep repeating: James Clowen is saved in Jesus name (for example).

Prayer for the Persecuted Church

One day Jesus told his disciples a story to show that they should always pray and never give up. “There was a judge in a certain city,” he said, “who neither feared God nor cared about people. A widow of that city came to him repeatedly, saying, ‘Give me justice in this dispute with my enemy.’ The judge ignored her for a while, but finally he said to himself, ‘I don’t fear God or care about people, but this woman is driving me crazy. I’m going to see that she gets justice, because she is wearing me out with her constant requests!’” Then the Lord said, “Learn a lesson from this unjust judge. Even he rendered a just decision in the end. So don’t you think God will surely give justice to his chosen people who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? I tell you, he will grant justice to them quickly! But when the Son of Man returns, how many will he find on the earth who have faith?”
- *Luke 18:1-8 NLT*

Ordinarily, one may be tempted to think that this passage means that you keep repeating your prayer points for God to hear you. If that is what it means then, Jesus contradicts His words in Mathew 6:7 where He condemns vain repetitions but, that is not possible. Also, many are relating to God as an unjust Judge which is not correct. It was the unjust judge that needed a shameless repetition not God.

Another wrong application of this passage is that people fail to understand that this passage is not talking about prayer to be saved or prayer to be filled with the Holy Ghost or prayer to receive healing. It is not related to prayer for finances or other prayer of requests, prayer of faith answers to all that. Do not forget that we have different kinds of prayer (Ephesians 6:18); this passage is talking about *vengeance of the persecuted believers*.

The widow was being oppressed and went to the Judge to avenge her. This woman can be likened to the Church going through persecution like

we have in the northern part of Nigeria and some parts of the world today. This passage directs us to pray that God should avenge the Church, deliver the Church and vindicate the Church from all the ills and persecutions.

“And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?”

We need to keep lifting our voice to God all day with persistent faith (not doubtful repetitions) that He might save the Church!

“I tell you that he will avenge them SPEEDILY. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?”

Can you see that God is unlike the unjust Judge? The Judge delayed in answering but God would speedily answer. And vs 8b buttress the fact that: *will God still find faith on the earth?* The meaning of the faith here is the Christian faith (we also have kinds of faith). When the last day of persecution comes heavily, will the Bridegroom still find Christians holding to their faith and belief on the earth?

It's our duty to pray day and night, mention specific places and peoples under persecution that God might avenge them speedily. Make the northern part of Nigeria as a point of contact.

I have the urge that God is challenging someone to take it as a duty today to pray for the persecuted Christians right now. You can simply google search places and tribes under persecution.

#4

The Lord's Prayer is not a New Covenant Prayer

And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you,
Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you
- John 16:23

I know many readers will be shocked upon seeing this title but I wasn't so shocked the day I realized this fact, I was only excited. I thank God for the privilege of being born again as a child and reading most part of the Scripture as a child. The Lord's Prayer has always been raising questions within me. I felt that if Jesus taught this prayer style Himself then it should be all the prayer a Christian will have to say but the prayer appears not to be all encompassing.

There is a period of about three and half years between the Old Covenant (Testament) and the New Covenant (Testament). The New Testament didn't start until Jesus died and resurrected so, before His death, His disciples requested for a prayer model then He taught them The Lord's prayer.

John 16:23 says '*IN THAT DAY*'... which day? The day when the New Covenant shall start, you shall pray to the FATHER in my NAME! The Lord's Prayer does not contain the name of Jesus- does it?

The third line of the Lord's Prayer says: thy Kingdom come. Many of us think that the Kingdom of God is the same as the Kingdom of heaven. At times, they are used interchangeably but at other times, means

differently. The kingdom of God as implied here is talking about the New Covenant!

Luke 17:21b: "... the kingdom of God is WITHIN you"

"That ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light" 1 Peter 2:9

I have not condemned the Lord's Prayer and in fact, there are lessons we can learn from it like other Old Testament discourse but, it is good we rightly divide the Word of Truth and how to pray right at all times in order to get the desired answer. Your prayer life has a lot to do with your spiritual growth.

#5

Lessons from the Lord's Prayer

And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son - John 14:13

OUR FATHER: this reveals the relationship aspect of prayer. You will always appear as a stranger before God if the only time you turn your Bible pages is on Sundays and the only time you talk with God is when you have needs. Approaching God as a son or daughter gives you an access into His inner chamber. I was having a dialogue with God one evening about a challenge. After pouring my heart to Him, I said “let me go to pray”. He told me: “I have already heard you”. (Isaiah 65:24)

HALLOWED BE THY NAME: this is giving reference to the power in the Name of God. This is not just calling Him names absentmindedly but affectionately! Have your parent or spouse or fiance(e) ever called you affectionately? How did you feel? When Peter called Jesus, the Christ, He anointed him above other disciples. You can invent names for God and call Him affectionately the same way you will treat your loved ones. Most lovers have pet names for themselves; I also have my special style of referencing my God.

THY KINGDOM COME: one of the choicest scriptures of Bishop David Oyedepo is Matthew 6:33: "*seek ye first the Kingdom of God...*" No wonder he is that blessed. The kingdom of God here is all about the salvation of men. Pray specifically for lost souls and tribes yet to be reached with the Gospel. Also, reach out to preach to them.

...OUR DAILY BREAD: teaches us to get rid of anxiety for tomorrow and commit all to Him. We are also expected to read the Scriptures every day for a taste of the living bread. It is not enough to recite the Lord's Prayer; you must become doers of the instructions therein.

#6

Paul on Prayer

Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered - Romans 8:26

I can't but remember my childhood whenever I talk about this passage. I am blessed with the best parents on earth and my mum is an excellent Christian. I can still remember the scriptures and prayers my mum used to quote for morning and evening family altar in our home. I challenge all reading this to initiate a family altar in their homes if there is none.

To end her prayers, my mum will paraphrase Romans 8:26 in the Yoruba language and say: *"your word says we don't know not how to pray, it is Your Spirit that prays for us with great zeal; as we sleep, Holy Spirit pray for us."* By this she meant that when we have slept, the Holy Spirit will take up prayers and start to pray for us but, is that the correct meaning of this scripture? Absolutely not!

First, the passage doesn't say that we do not know how to pray. It says, we do not know how to pray *"as we ought to"*. It also doesn't say that the Holy Spirit prays on our behalf, no. It says He helps us and makes intercession for us. And how is this done? Through praying in the Spirit; and what does it mean to pray in the Spirit? Praying in tongues! (I Corinthians 14:4, Ephesians 6:18, I Corinthians 14:2).

Apostle Paul told us that, though we know how to pray but not to the fullest, when we allow the Spirit who knows all things help us in prayer,

we pray rightly. No wonder Paul himself says: I thank my God; I speak with tongues more than ye all (1 Corinthians 14:18).

A sister had a revelation, seeing someone in danger. She decided to pray in tongues since she couldn't decode who the person was or the kind of danger. The following day, she was contacted that her sister was missing. It was then she recollected that the person she had seen in the revelation was her sister. After 24 hours, the sister was found.

A brother on his journey escaped a fatal accident. On getting to his destination, he met his father in the Lord on his knees praying. His father in the Lord told him, he just had the urge to pray for all his children that may be on a trip. Though, he didn't know who precisely it was, he didn't even know the young man was coming to see him but through praying in the Spirit, the brother was saved. That is why the passage includes: *"but the Spirit itself maketh INTERCESSION for us with groaning which cannot be uttered."*

Do you find praying difficult or uninteresting? Do you feel weighed down that you can't even pray? Are you confused on how to pray concerning the situation at hand? Then, the solution is to allow the Holy Spirit help you. Pray in the Spirit, pray in tongues. Do that now.

#7

A Worry Free Life

Don't worry about anything; instead pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank Him for all He Has done. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. Philippians 4:6-8 NLT

Is it possible to do without worrying or being bothered in life? Is it possible for you do without it? Do you really desire to have God's peace as mentioned in vs 7?

"And God's peace [shall be yours, that tranquil state of a soul assured of its salvation through Christ, and so fearing nothing from God and being content with its earthly lot of whatever sort that is, that peace] which transcends all understanding shall garrison and mount guard over your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." Amplified

If you do want that then, the principle is to be careful for nothing, worry not. I thank God I gave my life to Christ as a child at the age of 11. While in my Senior Secondary classes, things were so hard that my dad had to sell his car to pay our WAEC and NECO fees (for me and my sister). Things were quite hard beyond description. But I enjoyed God's peace mentioned in verse 7 during those times. Whenever we needed money at school, I just pray about it, asked my dad and REFUSED to worry about

it. Every need, I treated that way was always provided for. Nobody taught me but the Holy Spirit. I just knew my worry could never do it.

When people come to me these days for counsel and cry in lamentation, I have always wondered if things have been rosy for me. Because, I seem not to be in their world! I place my needs and wants before God and take it off my mind and He has always answered me. Let me cite some instances.

By the time I gained admission to the College of Education, things haven't improved at home. Anytime I travelled home, I made sure, I had my transport fare to return back to campus with me, because, I may not be given a dime from home. Yet I was peaceful and I was so blessed that I even gave to others.

When I graduated, I worked with a ministry and earned fifteen thousand naira (₦15,000) monthly yet I applied for my University programme with cost of over seventy thousand naira (₦70,000) as tuition. If there was anyone to worry then, I should be the number one person because I had to fend for myself. When I was about to publish my first book, I was on the academic course, I had no money in my account yet God told me to print a dated invitation card for the launching of the book which was yet to be published and there was no money in view. I obeyed, I was at peace and I had the publication and the launching successfully.

It is not as if worry didn't come those times but, whenever it came, I sent it off. When I was a child, I devised a means: anytime worry came, I burst into a song: *"God will make a way, where it seems to be no way, He*

works in ways we cannot see, He will make a way, He will be my God, Holy Ghost with me inside..." I knew the lyrics are not correct but at that time, that was all I knew of the song and I sang it joyfully whenever I was tempted. And you know what? I enjoyed peace and received answers to my prayers.

Many times even as a grown married man and minister, I have had to go over my messages and tapes when difficult situation came but, I knew the solution was never to be worried.

Instead of being worried, think on what v8 says:

*Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, **THINK** on these things.*

Look for the silver lining and the bright side of your life and **THINK** about them. I have a habit of reminiscing over past testimonies and thanking God for them with faith that the present challenge is not too big for Him to handle.

When we got our first car, we had to make some repairs. I was tempted to feel bad because of the cost it was gulping. It was strange to me. But I cast my mind back to the first fridge we ever bought. We had to make a repair on it at that time which was stressful to us but after that repair we had always enjoyed it till date. I reminded myself that every good and perfect gift comes from the Father of light and no one can accept a good thing except it came from God. The fridge came from God and it was good

and perfect even though it didn't look like that at first. The vehicle also came from God and I believed that we will enjoy it. I don't know but it always works for me to hold on to my past testimonies for an assurance of the present situation regardless of how small it is in comparison. If God gave you a phone, He can give you a house. A house is a lot different from a phone but it is the same God and He is capable to do all.

My point is that, pay attention to what is working in your life and give thanks to God for them instead of excessively dwelling on areas that are not working.

Let me add that, your confidence in God and refusal to worry has a lot to do about the effectiveness of your prayers. Worry is like a substitute the devil gives in place of your answer. Instead of worry, continue to speak the positive, the prayer of faith within and without.

#8

Prayer-Pie

Rejoice evermore.

Pray without ceasing.

In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you -1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Brother Paul was a success story on prayer and we have a lot to learn from him as a man. Beyond that, this is not the word of Paul but, the word of God.

Vs16-18 is a good sandwich. You must have eaten meat or fish pie before. The two outer sides are flesh (pastry) while the main substance (meat) lies in the middle.

Our Prayer-pie:

- **FRONT SIDE:** REJOICE: what are you passing through, what are your challenges, what are your anxieties? Let all men see that you are happy and rejoicing. Some people put on dull clothes to show their gloomy and sad mood. Many make their Facebook, WhatsApp and other social media status their confidants where they write their emotions. You see nasty and faithless words like: “waiting on God”, “sad”, “tears may last for a night”, “need a man” and many others. Try checking the status of ten of your friends, from it you can tell what their challenges are. The Bible says rejoice for evermore, that is what all men should see on you. Many people intentionally appear pitiful so people can sympathize with them. It

doesn't benefit a child of God. Always be cheerful when you appear before men.

- **MIDDLE:** in the middle of your prayer-pie should be your prayers, your effective prayer. It says: *pray without ceasing*; it didn't say pray without season and it didn't say pray without seasoning. It says pray without ceasing and this doesn't mean you should pray every moment, that is unrealistic except you won't sleep. It simply means: do not give up on prayer. Take your challenges to God in prayer, each time you remember the problem, say a prayer of faith e.g, "It is settled", "it is well", "God has done it".
- **BACK SIDE:** give thanks always. God is not a man, don't nag at Him. Give thanks in everything.

I have been eating this PRAYER-PIE for years since my childhood, I can tell you: I don't have any unanswered prayer request.

#9

Why Pray When You Can Worry

Do not fret or have any anxiety about anything, but in every circumstance and in everything, by prayer and petition (definite requests), with thanksgiving, continue to make your wants known to God. And God's peace [shall be yours, that tranquil state of a soul assured of its salvation through Christ, and so fearing nothing from God and being content with its earthly lot of whatever sort that is, that peace] which transcends all understanding shall garrison and mount guard over your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. For the rest, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is worthy of reverence and is honorable and seemly, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely and lovable, whatever is kind and winsome and gracious, if there is any virtue and excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think on and weigh and take account of these things [fix your minds on them]

-Philippians 4:6-8

We are still on what Paul taught about prayer. This was an Apostle who experienced so much persecution yet, he is always telling us to rejoice always and worry not. I think he has more reasons to worry and nag at God more than any of us.

Check through his CV: *imprisoned several times, beaten with countless stripes up to the point of death, five times received 39 lashes from his fellow Jews, thrice beaten with rods, once stoned, thrice suffered shipwreck, a night and a day in the peril of an heavy ocean (deep); on the road travelling often, in danger of waters, in danger of robbers, in danger by his own countrymen, in danger by strangers, in danger in the city, in danger in the wilderness, in danger in the sea, in danger among false brethren; in weariness and painfulness, many sleepless nights because of dangers around, in hunger and thirst, in fasting often, in cold and nakedness. (II Corinthians 11:23-27).*

Tell me, if what you are facing is up to that. Yet, Apostle Paul made *rejoicing and worry* not his principle. Have you ever seen a man cut a tree with a knife? You should know that such is madness because he would never succeed in hewing any tree, the same applies to someone using a dose of worry to solve his problems, it would never get solved. Someone said: *it is madness to be given to worry*. I think I love that.

Instead of worrying, our focus verse says: wrap your requests with thanksgiving and submit them to God. When you deposit money into your bank account, you will be given a teller to assure you that the transaction was done. Do you go home doubting if the money is safe? No! Likewise, when you go to God to make your requests, He gives you a teller, PEACE OF MIND (check v7). But when you exchange your peace for worry, note that the devil has robbed you of your teller which is the proof of payment. Why pray when you can worry, why worry when you can pray? Pray God for enablement to cast all your cares on Him.

#10 Prayer Insulators

I will therefore that men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting
- I Timothy 2:8

An Insulator is a substance that stops the flow of heat or electricity. No matter how powerful the voltage is, it can't surpass the resistance of an insulator be it plastic or wood bridging the electrical supply.

No matter how much you sweat, cry, fast and wait on God, (the scripture says), if you have WRATH OR DOUBT in you, your prayers won't be answered. Families of wrath are resentment, anger, hatred, quarrels, bitterness and unforgiveness (the mother of all). Dear reader, hope you know that forgiving your offenders is for your own sake. I already have forgiveness software in my system and it's so powerful that God enables me to forgive people before they ever hurt me. I forgive in advance. Any offence that looks difficult to forgive, I simply go to pray and easily, I let go by the help of the Spirit.

The second insulator is DOUBT. The families of doubt are worry, anxiety and repetition of prayer points. Let me tell you the difference between persistent request and repeating prayers. Persistent prayer is praying once and reminding yourself that God has done it! Repetition is saying the same prayer over and over. The first is faith while the second is doubt.

God has helped me to grow in this faith habit that when I present heavy things before God, I forget about it. The situation could still be there but, I act and behave as it is no more. And it really does not exist because I

see with the lens of faith. Avoid these insulators and you shall experience a glorious Christian life. I know it's not going to be easy for a start but it is possible.

#11 Those in Authority

(Pray) for kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty
- I Timothy 2:2

It is of a fact that a born again Christian belongs to the Kingdom of heaven and not subject to the rulership of darkness on this earth. But, another fact is: whatever happens in our country affects us in some ways. And that was why Paul instructed Timothy and all Christians to pray for their leaders.

The King ruled in Paul's time but today, we have Presidents, Prime Ministers, Governors, Senators, Ministers, Local Government Chairmen and so on. God said you should pray for them! If you pray for them every day, you wouldn't have reasons to curse or abuse them. Some might think: "Paul doesn't know how corrupt they are, he wouldn't have asked us to pray for them". They can't be as bad as those in Paul's time. Kings those days sponsored the mass capturing and killing of Christians. Israel was being colonized then yet, Paul prayed for the king and advised us to do the same because their decisions affects us directly.

There was a time in Oyo State, Nigeria when a circular prohibiting choruses, religious prayers and sermons in certain schools of the State was passed. That affected our Primary and Secondary School evangelism adversely and the effect was felt everywhere. Some teachers were afraid to say the name of Jesus in the classroom.

I know many of our political leaders are unbelievers, the elections can be rigged, they might be corrupt but in the foolishness of God which is wiser than men (I Corinthians 1:25), He commanded us to pray for them to lead rightly. I'm sure our prayers will do more good than cursing or blaming them. Remember them every day in your prayers and it will be best if you pray mentioning names.

Pray that the President of your Nation together with his cabinet will lead the nation rightly and be granted wisdom and sincerity in the fight against the ills in the society. Do that now.

#12

James on Prayer

Is any among you afflicted? Let him pray. Is any merry? Let him sing psalms. Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord - James 5:13-14

Verse 13 was directed to the afflicted, "*let the afflicted pray*". The afflicted here doesn't mean the sick but those facing persecution or trials or tests or storms of life. Instead of praying what many do is to crying. I have promised God never to shed tears in the face of any trial because shedding tears is a sign of defeat, grief and depression. You might think I am saying this because probably because I haven't faced the big trials but I tell you, I can't remember shedding tears in the face of any trial or hunger or lack, I rather prayed.

Verse 13 says you should pray, not someone else praying for you. It doesn't mean you can't call for help but, you need to grow up and pray by yourself.

Verse 14 talks about the sick, the sick are to call the elders. The sick here means those with chronic illnesses that they almost cannot move their bodies or lips. Many old but childish Christians call people for simple headache and nightmares. Many of my spiritual children have relieved me of such burdens, they prayed and got same result and even better result than when I pray for them. They only inform me that they were sick after they have prayed and become healed. I tell you, if you are a Christian that still takes drugs on every illness or call people to pray for

you on such illnesses, you are a spiritual babe (not a sinner anyway)-grow-up. Three of my children were bitten by scorpions at different times; one was bitten near her eyes. It was after they were whole that they shared the testimonies with me.

The Apostle says “*IF*” *any* is sick....this means it is unusual and unexpected for anyone to be sick or get sick especially to the level of lifelessness but should there be any, call for the elders! Note that we are not talking of headache or stomach pains here, likewise the elders meant are not anybody but mature believers; not in age but in faith; particularly those who believe in divine healing.

The Scriptures added that if there be any sin, it shall be forgiven. This doesn't mean that every illness can be traced to sin but if there is any, let it be confessed for the healing to be achieved (v16).

Verse17-18 talks of the effectual fervent prayer of the righteous in the similitude of Elijah. It says:

Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months.

Thank God, Apostle James didn't say “Prophet Elijah” but simply Elijah and he added that he was a man like us. So, what made his prayer to be answered was not because he was a prophet but because he prayed fervently and he was a righteous man. Your prayer is fervent when you are serious and persistent in faith; you are righteous if you are born-again. It is not about you but about Christ's righteousness.

James calls us to pray in persecution, sing praises, pray for the sick and believe that our own prayer can also move mountains.

#13

Peter On Prayer: Prayer Life

But the end and culmination of all things has now come near; keep sound minded and self-restrained and alert therefore for [the practice of] prayer - 1 Peter 4:7 (Amplified)

If horses were wishes, beggars will ride. I love that saying. Many of us are quite lazy! We can attend several prayer programmes, clap, jump, scream and do all manner of prayers (I didn't say they aren't good) but we don't have a developed personal prayer life. Some of us who observe personal prayers only go to God only when we have needs, state our needs and leave His presence until the following day or week at fellowships or other times when we have things to request for.

Apostle Peter here admonishes that Christians need to make practice of prayer and develop a glorious prayer life as the end draws near. Prayer life is one of the virtues of Christian living, where you have fellowship with God in regular prayers. In developing a quality prayer life, you have to set a regular time (preferably daily) for prayers aside the quiet time period. You may also set the duration, from 15 minutes upward.

To start the practice of prayer or fellowship in prayer, you must understand that prayer is more of fellowship time with God than requesting. The most important part is your praises, worship and adorations to God. Casting your minds on His goodness and calling Him names. If you have sins, simply state it and receive forgiveness, don't waste time on that then, you begin to pray and sing in the Holy Ghost

through tongues. Speaking in tongues is a vital weapon to your spiritual growth. Then, direct your prayers to those around you far and near, interceding for unbelievers and supplicating for believers.

Then, give your ears and hearts to God to hear Him. He wants to speak and you have to respond to Him. If you don't hear the voice of the Holy Spirit, read my book *The Communion of the Holy Spirit* or download my audio teachings on the subject.

I pray a good fellowship time for you in your prayer lives.

#14

John on Prayer

And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us - I John 5:14

Apostle John also taught about prayer. He mentioned some things that are very significant to our Christian walk. The passage didn't say "pray", it says "ask". This means it's a prayer of request to make things happen.

CONFIDENCE: *this is the CONFIDENCE that we have.* I don't know if you know what this confidence is but, it's a habitual experience of some of us. We always have confidence approaching God in prayer especially when we have relevant scriptures to back up our requests.

IF WE ASK ACCORDING TO HIS WILL: again, many believers or let me say "Bible carriers" have missed it here. This passage doesn't say you should end your prayers with "if it is the will of God" for this is not an evidence of CONFIDENCE in God. If you aren't sure if it was the will of God or not then you are praying randomly. During my secondary school days, we were instructed never to end our speech in debates by saying "...with this few points of mine, I hope I have been able to convince you". It shows you don't have the required CONFIDENCE.

Also, Christians are expected to consult the word of God and the Holy Spirit to ascertain that their requests are God's will then, render it to God. Once it conforms with His will (word), it would be answered promptly.

#15

Praying Forgiveness for Brethren

If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it - I John 5:16

Apostle John captures praying for forgiveness on another person's behalf. Have you heard of that before? That it is possible to make request from God that the sin of someone else should be forgiven but that is what this scripture says:

"If you see a Christian brother or sister sinning in a way that does not lead to death, you should pray, and God will give that person life. NLT

Does this mean the person is permitted to keep sinning while you ask God to forgive him? Of course not! The Bible says "a brother", which means a believer, a fellow Christian. It also says: "God will give that person LIFE". Of course, the person is not dead, God giving him life here means reviving him or her. In other words, God will bring such into the realization of his sinful acts and help him to seek genuine repentance.

The opposite is what we have today; such love does not exist among many of us. Instead of praying life for backsliding brethren, we rather step on them; instead of praying forgiveness for a sinful habit in some brethren, we go about condemning them.

A little word of prayer: "Lord, give life to Sis. Bimpe (for instance) to overcome jealousy" is precious than slander. Some believers even wish

that another believer sin. Or what does it mean when you spread the false news that a brother fornicated?

You can also pray for a dying relative (believer) and for God's mercy for the sins of commission or omission especially when it is obvious that the person may die soon. Can you pray for a falling brother now?

#16

When Not To Pray

If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it

- 1 John 5:16

Verse 16b talks of a SIN UNTO DEATH and the Bible says we shouldn't pray for such. What does it mean to commit a sin unto death, the unpardonable sin?

Hebrews 6:4-6 gives us the condition upon which a person can commit this sin:

For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.

The criteria

- Tasted of the heavenly gift: which is Jesus Christ that is, the person is born again.
- Partakers of the Holy Ghost: Spirit-filled with the evidence of speaking in tongues.
- Tasted of the good word of God: rooted in the scriptures i.e., spiritually mature

- Tasted of the powers to come: this is the spiritual gifts operating maximally in their lives
- **Then turn away from God.**

Looking at the conditions above, it is not for baby or carnal Christians but for those who are mature spiritually. Even some ministers have not attained all of it. It is a deeper level of spirituality. It will be difficult to find someone in this stage still commit the unpardonable sin.

Then TURN AWAY FROM GOD (NLT): this does not mean if they commit a sin, no! If it is a sin, fornication or murder for instance, they would surely be forgiven but it means to deny Christ and confess that they no longer believe in the salvation of the Lord Jesus Christ. That simply means the person have become “*unborn again*”. Hebrews 10:26-29.

The more I read this passage, the more relaxed I am because I cannot fall victim by His Grace. I can't fall victim not because I am not grown but due to the fact that no one tastes that level of maturity and wants to look back.

#17 Prosperity

Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in every way and [that your body] may keep well, even as [I know] your soul keeps well and prospers
- 3 John 2

We have a good prayer demonstration by Apostle John. He didn't only teach us to pray on prosperity but he prayed it for us. Some people assume that the word "prosper" here means spiritual prosperity only but that's not true; a primary school learner of English will tell you it is not.

Note that the passage talks about prosperity, health for the body and emotional stability of the soul. All these things are not spiritual but physical blessings from God. If God through the Apostle declares that He desires that you prosper then why are you caging yourself with the saying "money is the root of all evil".

Dear reader, that is not the scripture, I hope you know that? The scripture says: "The LOVE of money is the root of all evil"- 1Timothy 6:10. Those who lust after money, loves money and use men but a Christian will love men and use money. **Good Christians have money; money don't have them.** Many think that POVERTY is the emblem of spirituality, but I tell you that any form of poverty should be dealt with.

Looking at the patriarchs - Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, none of them was poor. Even during famine, they were rich so also were the apostles. Acts tells us the Christians lacked NOTHING - Acts4:34. What Christ said we shall suffer is persecution not poverty and persecution often result from

prosperity. If Christ came to wipe sins and all the curses of the law (Galatians 3:13, Deuteronomy 28:15-68), I'm happy to announce to you that POVERTY is one of the major curses of the law. Since God hates sin, He also hates poverty. If you hate sin, you should also hate poverty.

Get it clear, that Christians are poor doesn't make them unchristian and that Christians are rich doesn't make them worldly. A Christian that fails at school is still a Christian but he needs to deal with failure so also is poverty.

When Paul was to be imprisoned in Rome, he got himself a good accommodation (he didn't stay in the prison) where he fed himself and received visitor: Acts 28:30 ***“And Paul dwelt two whole years in his own hired house, and received all that came in unto him.” KJV.*** You can imagine what it will cost a Nigerian to rent a whole apartment in Washington, USA for instance or even in Abuja for two full years. Is such a poor man?

Every believer should deal with poverty the same way they would deal with sin. The Apostle didn't only pray financial prosperity for us but also PEACE OF MIND and emotional balance in which there is no fear, panic or apprehension.

#18 Jude on Prayer

But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying
in the Holy Ghost - Jude 20

Bro. Jude tells us something unique here *in order to build the MOST HOLY kind of Faith*, in the Holy Ghost (tongues). Isn't that simple? What is the Most Holy Faith? That gives us the allusion of the Old Testament temple which had three sections: The Outer court: for all and sundry, the Holy Place: for the Levites only, then the Most Holy place which is also called Holy of Holies which is only accessible to the Chief Priest, once a year and in there is the very Ark of God. The Apostle is telling us that we can BUILD UP, in other words, RECHARGE our Faith to the level of having the very high faith – the most Holy Faith.

I had a unique experience on this: as I responded to the urge of prayer on a particular day in February, 2016, I found myself praying in tongues and the thought of a certain need flashed through my mind with an inner drive saying, if you pray on this thing it would be settled instantly. I felt interrupted so I asked the Holy Spirit what that meant.

He quoted Jude 20 to me saying, it means your FAITH has been built up to agree that when you pray on that need right now, it would be solved. I obeyed. It was like a gun: coked and shot. I coked my faith by praying in tongues and as soon as I had the drive to pray on that need, I shot the bullet of command. Three major and seemingly impossible things came to my mind that day which I treated that way. I tell you, within 5 minutes after I finished praying, the first was answered; I received a

credit alert in the middle of the night. About two hours later the second was answered, in about three weeks, the third (which could have taken years) was settled to the glory of God.

You can also get there. I didn't start building that day but on that day, I had the most holy faith experience which has been part of me ever since. Why not do more of praying in tongues and climb up higher? I advise you to get my book *The Pentecost Volume: Speaking in Tongues* to gain insight into what it means to pray in tongues.

END NOTE

Congratulations on making it this far! I believe you have learnt valuable lessons on this very important subject. How about putting them to work immediately.

I urge you to get my other books on prayer especially *Prayer that Works*. You will be glad you do.

INDEX

Receiving Salvation

You were born a sinner condemned to hell but Jesus Christ died for your sins, gave you power to sin no more and to enjoy life here on earth and hereafter. All you need to do is to believe and accept His works by declaring Him as your LORD and Saviour. Do you believe this? Say: Lord Jesus Christ, I accept that you died and resurrected for the remission of my sins, I declare you as my LORD and Saviour. Amen.

Steps to Receive the Baptism of the Holy Ghost

1. You are not to ask or beg God for it, just expect it.
2. Believe He has given you and you will manifest it.
3. Don't hate tongues. That some people misuse it doesn't mean it has lost its power.
4. Don't pretend not to need it. Holy Ghost baptism is not just about tongues, it is about empowerment but tongues is the initial sign that you are baptized.
5. Clear your minds of doubts. God will give you but if you think that any sin can hinder you, ask for forgiveness now and now. (Isa 1:18 *Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool*). And forgive everyone in your heart.
6. As I pray for you, you will be baptized and you will speak in new tongues.

7. As I pray for you, the Holy Spirit will give you utterances and you will speak it out. Note that utterance means any sound produced with the mouth. That means the utterance could be one syllable or two. It could be one word or more. Understand that you are the one that will pronounce the utterance in anyway it comes to your mind as the Holy Spirit gives you utterance.
8. When I pray for you, the utterance would come. Don't think you are the one thinking it, it is not you. Don't think you will be unconscious or lost, it is not so. Don't be bothered if you don't know the meaning just speak it. And keep repeating whatever comes to your mind.
9. Daddy thank you because you are a faithful God, you always hear me and you are eager to give us more than we are eager to ask. I pray for you: receive the Holy Spirit right now in Jesus Name.
10. Open your mouth and began to speak those tongues.

Steps to Receive Healing

1. **1Peter 2:24 says:** *He personally bore our sins in His [own] body on the tree [as on an altar and offered Himself on it], that we might die (cease to exist) to sin and live to righteousness. **By His wounds you have been healed.***
2. You have been healed. You have been healed even before you had that illness, what I'm about to do by praying with you is to proclaim your healing.
3. As I do that, the pains and symptoms will be no more.
4. After I pray for you move that part of your body just as though it was healed already because it is an instant healing.

5. I proclaim you healed and whole right now in Jesus Name. The last time you had that illness is the last you will ever have in Jesus Name.
6. Check it out and share your testimonies.

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