

# GROWTH RESOURCES

## POWER PRAYER

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### **Prayer is the place where heaven and earth become one.**

- Prayer is our weapon of choice and the only thing that really works.
- We are compelled to pray until every spiritual obstacle is re-ordered to accommodate the plans of God.
- Prayer is a powerful force that transcends time and brings the eternal power of God into our lives.
- This sort of prayer has nothing to do with repetitious, memorized prayers of religious tradition or with a “give-me, bless-me” list of personal needs or wants.
- Earnest prayer comes from the heart, unveiling the depths of your soul as you bow before the King of Kings in worship and adoration.

### **The call to this kind of powerful, effective prayer is repeated throughout the Word of God. The Bible exhorts and compels us**

- “Pray without ceasing” (1 Thess 5:17)
- “I will therefore that men pray everywhere” (1 Tim 2:8)
- “Men ought always to pray, and not to faint” (Luke 18:1)
- “Watch... and pray” (Luke 21:36; Matt 26:41)
- “Continue in prayer” (Col 4:2)
- “By prayer... let your requests be made known unto God” (Phil 4:6)
- “Praying always” (Eph 6:18)
- “Continuing instant in prayer” (Rom 12:12)
- “Worshiping night and day with fasting and prayer” (Luke 2:37)
- “This kind does not go out but by prayer and fasting”. (Matt 17:21)
- “The prayer of the righteous avails much”. (James 5:16)
- Daniel prayed three times a day. (Dan 6:14).
- The more a person prays to the Father, the greater his joy will be. A lack of joy is a sign of prayerlessness.
- Pray in the name of Jesus (John 16:23-24)

### **Before we can unleash the power of heaven through prayer,**

- we must understand the importance of prayer and
- make a commitment to devote ourselves wholeheartedly to diligent, fervent prayer.

## **THERE ARE MANY DIFFERENT WAYS TO PRAY**

### **• Praying in the Spirit**

Pray the Word back to God or pray in your spiritual language you received when you were baptized with the Holy Spirit.

- *(Jude 1:20) But you, beloved, build yourselves up [founded] on your most holy faith [make progress, rise like an edifice higher and higher], praying in the Holy Spirit.*
- *(Rom 8:26) So too the [Holy] Spirit comes to our aid and bears us up in our weakness; for we do not know what prayer to offer nor how to offer it worthily as we ought, but the Spirit*

*Himself goes to meet our supplication and pleads in and groanings too deep for utterance. (v.27) And He Who searches the hearts of men knows what is in the mind of the [Holy] Spirit [what His intent is], because the Spirit intercedes and pleads [before God] in behalf of the saints according to and in harmony with God's will. (v.28) We are assured and know that [God being a partner in their labour] all things work together and are [fitting into a plan] for good to and for those who love God and are called according to [His] design and purpose.*

## • **Thanksgiving**

Thanksgiving is the foundation of a life of prayer and worship.

Thank God for who He is, what He has done and what He is going to do.

- *(Phil 4:6) Do not fret or have any anxiety about anything, but in every circumstance and in everything, by prayer and petition (definite request), with thanksgiving, continue to make your wants known to God.*
- *(1 Thess 5:18) Thank [God] in everything [no matter what the circumstances may be, be thankful and give thanks], for this is the will of God for you [who are] in Christ Jesus [the Revealer and Mediator of that will].*

## • **Praise**

Praise is about who God is and what He means to you.

- *(Ps 118:28) You are my God, and I will confess, praise, and give thanks to You; You are my God, I will extol You.*
- *(Ps 119:164) Seven times a day and all day long do I praise You because of Your righteous decrees.*
- *(Rom 15:11) And again, Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the people praise Him!*
- *(Ps 22:3) But You are holy, O You Who dwell in [the holy place where] the praises of Israel [are offered].*
- *(Ps 100) Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all you lands! (v.2) Serve the Lord with gladness! Come before His presence with singing! (v.3) Know (perceive, recognize, and understand with approval) that the Lord is Go! It is He Who has made us, not we ourselves [and we are His]! We are His people and the sheep of His pasture. (v.4) Enter into His gates with thanksgiving and a thank offering and into His courts with praise! Be thankful and say so to Him, bless and affectionately praise His name! (v.5) For the Lord is good; His mercy and loving-kindness are everlasting, His faithfulness and truth endure to all generations.*
- *(Ps 134:2) Lift up your hands in holiness and to the sanctuary and bless the Lord [affectionately and gratefully praise Him]!*

## • **Intercession**

This is when someone intervenes, not for himself but for the sake of others at the throne of God.

- *(1 Tim 2:1) FIRST OF all, then, I admonish and urge that petitions, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgiving be offered on behalf of all men. (v.2) For kings and all who are in positions of authority or high responsibility, that [outwardly] we may pass a quiet and undisturbed life [and inwardly] a peaceable one in all godliness and reverence and seriousness in every way. (v.3) For such [praying] is good and right, and [it is] pleasing and acceptable to God our Saviour. (v.4) Who wishes all men to be saved and [increasingly] to perceive and recognize and discern and know precisely and correctly the [divine] Truth.*

## • **Requests/Petitions**

In this prayer God is asked to meet certain needs.

- *(Mark 11:22) And Jesus, replying, said to them, Have faith in God [constantly]. (v.23) Truly I tell you, whoever says to this mountain, Be lifted up and thrown into the sea! And does not*

doubt at all in his heart but believes that what he says will take place, it will be done for him. (v.24) For this reason I am telling you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe (trust and be confident) that it is granted to you, and you will [get it]. (v.25) And wherever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him and let it drop (leave it, let it go), in order that your Father Who is in heaven may also forgive you your [own] failings and shortcomings and let them drop. (v.26) but if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your failings and shortcomings.

## 7 RESULTS OF PRAYER

1. **Strength.** We are told, “*AWAKE, AWAKE, Put on your strength, O Zion*” (Isaiah 52:1).
  - When you become prayerful, there will be strength in your spiritual life.
  - Weakness will flee as you are spiritually awakened and strengthened.
  - Temptation will not overcome you. You’ll declare, “*Greater is He that is in me, than He that is in the world*” (1 John 4:4).
  - You will experience strength against sin, the enemy, and demon powers!
2. **Beauty.**
  - Prayer drives the effects of sin away from your life and
  - clothes you with righteousness and honour, bringing beauty to your walk with God: “*Put on your beautiful garments*” (Isaiah 52:1)
3. **Separation.** When you become a person of prayer and spend increasing amounts of time communing with God, you will find that
  - He begins separating you from the effects of the world and sinful lifestyles. We are told, “*So, come out from among [unbelievers], and separate (sever) yourselves from them, says the Lord, and touch not [any] unclean thing; then I will receive you kindly and treat you with favour (Isa 52:11)*” (2 Cor 6:17).
  - Prayer separates you from sin, pulling you toward Him!
4. **Liberty.** We are told to “*Shake yourself from the dust; arise, sit [erect in a dignified place]; O Jerusalem; lose yourself from the bonds of your neck, O captive Daughter of Zion*” (Isa 52:2)
  - Prayer liberates the heart from bondages, concerns, and hindrances of the world.
  - As you begin to seek God and pray more and more effectively, you will be freed from the distractions of the enemy and the things that have held you captive. Paul wrote, “*IN [this] freedom Christ has made us free [and completely liberated us]; stand fast then, and do not be hampered and held ensnared and submit again to a yoke of slavery [which you have once put off]*” (Gal 5:1).
  - Prayer brings freedom, for “*Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty (emancipation from bondage, freedom)*” (2 Cor 3:17)
5. **Surrender.** Where once we were owned by the enemy – “*You were sold for nothing*” (Isa 52:3) – salvation through the blood of Jesus and
  - Powerful prayer enable you to surrender to God and give you the power and authority to resist the hold that the enemy once had on your life: “*So be subject to God. Resist the devil [stand firm against him], and he will flee from you*” (James 4:7)
6. **Redemption.** We are promised, “*and you shall be redeemed without money*” (Isa 52:3). You are bought at a much more precious price than money, for it cost Christ everything to open up a right relationship from God to you.
  - Prayer will bring you out of the Egypt of your old life.

- Prayer will remove the desire to revisit the old neighborhoods of your past lifestyle, and you will be delivered from your enemies, habits, and environments.

## 7. Revelation.

- Prayer opens your spiritual eyes to revelation, bringing peace in your heart and fire in your soul. He promises, *"And the Lord shall guide you continually and satisfy you in drought and in dry places and make strong your bones. And you shall be like a watered garden and like a spring of water whose waters fail not"* (Isa 58:11)
- When you commit yourself to a powerful prayer life and call upon the Lord often, you will hear His voice and know divine revelations.

With these seven results of prayer you will have power! You will have victory! Remember, when the Lord spoke to Elijah, saying *"Go show thyself to Ahab, and I will send rain on the earth,"* Elijah obeyed.

- But the answer to his prayer did not come until he prayed seven times. Persistent, fervent prayer brought the victory. It still does. (Isa 58:9)

Today more than ever, prayer is not optional.

- It is essential to victorious Christian living.
- When we fail to pray, the consequences will be severe, and we will be ineffective, easy prey for the enemy.
- Make a commitment to prayer. Unleash the power of prayer in your life, your home, your nation, your world! Your life will never be the same. There is power in prayer.
- The plans of the enemy can be averted if we as God's people unite our hearts and pray. The word of God declares (2 Chron 7:14).

## MODEL OF PRAYER

In all things, the life of Jesus provides us with the perfect model of what we should do. In (Mark 1:35) *And in the morning, long before daylight, He got up and went out to a deserted place, and there He prayed* the Bible gives us an indication of a few very significant factors with regards to Jesus' prayer life:

The first time of the day belongs to God

The Bible specifies that Jesus went to pray before daybreak.

- The very first moments of His day were deliberately dedicated to God.
- Jesus went to pray before anybody could place any demand on Him for the day.
- Spending time in devotion should happen on a daily basis in the morning.
- When Jesus taught His disciples to pray, He gave them the "Our Father, as their model prayer. As evident in the working of this prayer, it is a daily prayer.

### Get up

#### Jesus got up to pray.

- Considering the absolute importance of accurately discerning the will of God and receiving direction for the day from Him, it is imperative to do everything in our ability to ensure that we are alert and fully functional when we pray in the morning. In the same way we would not go to our employer or manager half-asleep, we cannot go to God like that.
- Our time in devotion is the most significant meeting of our day on any given day.
- Bearing this in mind, we have to get out of bed in order to maximize our time with the Lord.

### **Find an isolated place**

- The deeply intimate and personal nature of a healthy relationship with God requires a place where we can privately and honestly expose our hearts and the very essence of our being and what we are going through to God without being scared that someone else will walk in.

Prayer time determines the rest of the day

In Mark 1:37 the disciples come to call Jesus from His pray time stating that everybody is already looking for Him.

- Any believer that follows in the footsteps of Christ will find that there is a constant demand for love, help, support, direction and so much more on us.
- When this happens we can easily respond to the demand by becoming so overwhelmed that we cannot function appropriate anymore.
- On the other hand, we can see the demand as something that speaks of our personal value and importance and so become prideful as a result of the attention.
- Jesus however does not respond in either one of these two ways. He simply embraces purpose and cast vision. His response is not born in reaction to what is happening around Him but rather in what the Father told Him to do. As a result of spending time in prayer He can with confident boldness give direction to His followers and proceed to accurately manifest the will of God.

Far too often we seek God's blessing on what we have already determined to be our preferred outcome.

- A lifestyle of prayer changes this around in the sense that it enables us to know and deliberately position ourselves in God's plan and purpose and so ultimately in the place where He has already commanded His blessing.
- When we spend time in fasting and prayer, the main objective for these spiritual disciplines can never be to try and manipulate God into doing what we want Him to do. We fast and pray in humble acknowledgment and recognition of our desperate need for God's direction and guidance.
- It is in the presence of God that we find not only the strength to change but also the direction for how and what we should change.

## **LAST WORDS ON PRAYER:**

### **PRAYER IS OUR LIFELINE**

- We cannot rely on others to have spiritual authority for us. Each of us have to have it for ourselves.
- We find our deliverance in prayer and nowhere else because God is bigger than the devil.
- We connect to God through prayer.
- At the same time, prayer is a spiritual weapon against everything that opposes God.
- You have influence with God and He is waiting for your voice.
- The Church is a house of prayer for all nations because God restricts Himself to the faith of the Church.

### **WHO'S IN CHARGE**

- Jesus connected His ministry of power to His lifestyle of prayer.
- Demonic powers, or "strongmen", can stand behind earthly structures or leaders to accomplish their evil intentions. We will not be able to solve problems relationally that are actually problems spiritually.
- When we "bind" things in the spirit realm that work against God's Kingdom, we are actually "tying it up". We do this by using our words and commanding it to be done.

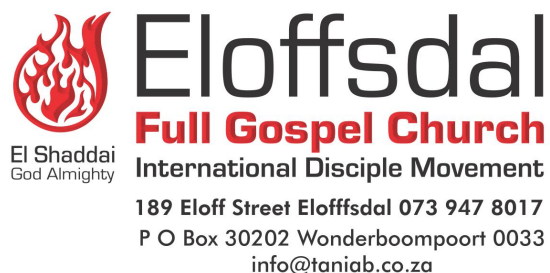
### **OUR SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY**

- We are invited to discover our God-given spiritual authority so we can be effective.
- Spiritual authority can grow. Asking God for more spiritual authority is a prayer He encourages and will answer.

### **GOD'S MIGHTY ARMY**

- There is an invisible army on assignment, helping the Body of Christ.
- Angels are dispatched from heaven to earth in response to our prayers.
- When we pray, heaven opens.
- An open heaven is characterized by an increase of angelic activity.
- Within biblical boundaries, we can ask our heavenly Father to send angels, and we can work with them.

Our prayer matters as God's will does not happen unless we pray.



If you would like to speak to someone about your situation, we would love to help you and pray with you. Please contact the El Shaddai FGC Offices or you can email us at [info@taniab.co.za](mailto:info@taniab.co.za)