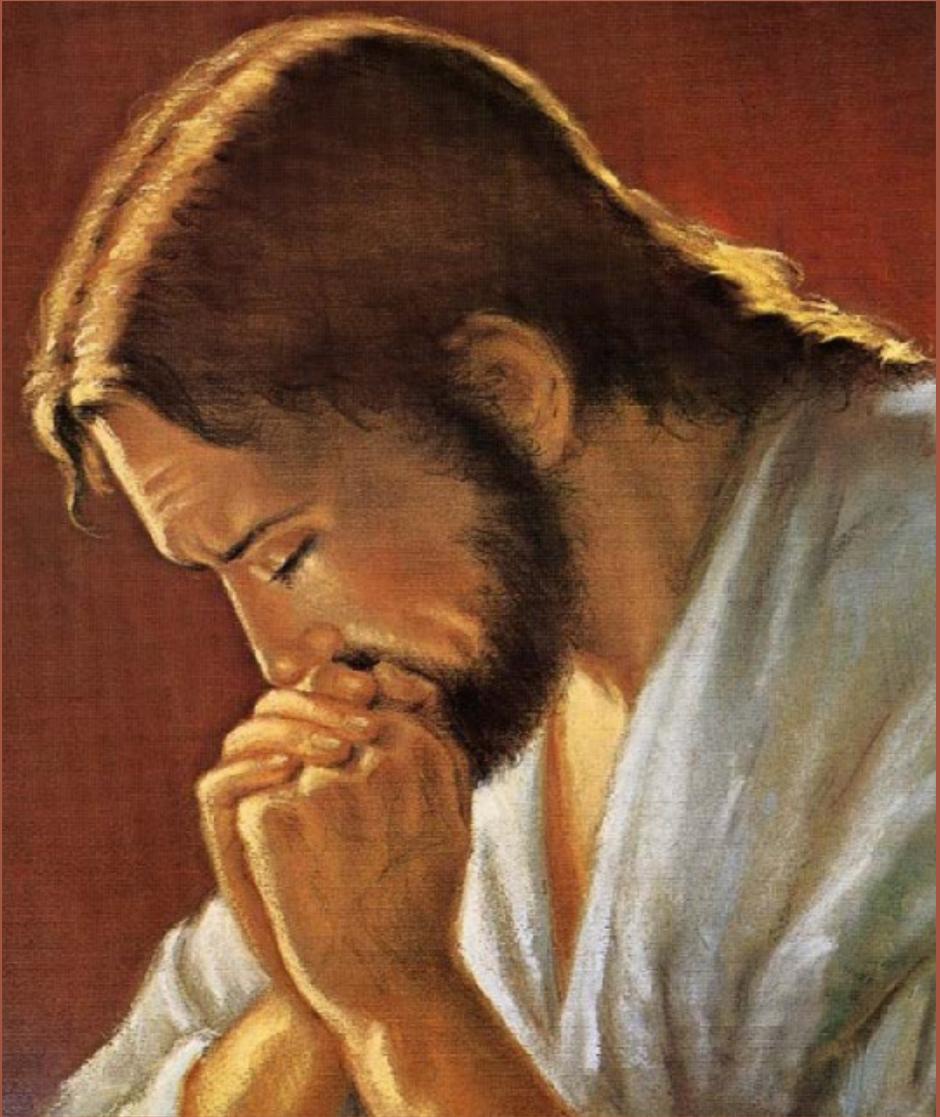


TEACH ME TO PRAY, LORD



Authored by
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TEACH ME TO PRAY,
LORD

A publication of Jesus Saviour Evangelical Ministries

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1. MY SPIRIT IS WILLING BUT MY BODY IS WEAK. HOW DO I OVERCOME?

Prayer is one of the cornerstones of the Christian faith and walk. It is our weapon for war in the battle against every attack of the evil one. The purpose of this book is to equip you with the correct ingredients to help you become even more effective in your prayer life and be a powerful prayer warrior.

One of the biggest challenges facing a child of God when it comes to prayer is overcoming the flesh. Though they would love to spend time in prayer and that is what their spirit wishes to do, their body however does not share the same view.

Matthew 26:41 - 'Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The Spirit is willing but the body is weak.'

The above portion of scripture has its context in the Garden of Gethsemane. The Lord Jesus is fervently in prayer before His great sacrifice for us and He wanted His disciples to be also in prayer. When He prayed and came back all He saw was all His disciples fast asleep. That's when He told them to get up and pray so that they will not fall into temptation and He went to pray again. Once again He came to see them and He again found them asleep so He left them and went back to praying.

Tiredness, sleepiness or drowsiness of the body is a blockade for everyone's prayer life. Though we want to pray in our heart more often than not the body is not willing. When you sit down to pray you start feeling sleepy or you feel so tired that you wish to sleep. Here the disciples of the Lord experienced this. It says in Matthew 26:43 'when He came back He again found them sleeping because their eyes were heavy.'

It's only human to feel tired especially if you work all day whether it be at office or home and all you want to do is rest or just jump into bed or be in bed for a good snooze. But people of God prayer is very important because when we pray we are communicating with the Lord and we are spending time with Him alone. It is a relationship building time with the Lord Jesus. Your prayer life should not be a Thank you Lord for this day, Bless me, keep me safe, give me this that and everything amen kind of prayer which you pray just before you leave home or just before you go to bed. It is not a 5 minute thing. It is a period of time where you are communicating with your Father, your Friend,

your Saviour and Lord.

Okay look at it this way, many of us go for coffee with our friends. Say we go we order a cup of coffee with some cookies maybe and we sit in that coffee shop and chat for sometimes 3,4 or more hours and we don't even feel the time. Do you even feel tired or drowsy then? No right. Why because you so engrossed in the conversation and so happy to be in the presence of your friend that you don't even feel what the body is doing because your spirit or your real you is totally concentrated on your friend and the conversation. My friend that same principle applies to prayer. *Psalm 42:1-2 says 'As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God for the Living God. When can I go and meet with God?'* *Psalm 63:1 says 'O God you are my God, earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you my body longs for you in a dry and weary land where there is no water.'*

My dear friends to overcome your flesh or in simpler terms what your body tells you it wants to do the first thing you should have is that thirst for the Lord. It is an undying thirst like how you would search for water when you are lost in a desert. The psalmist says 'when can I go and meet with God?' Remember how you make plans to go and meet with your friend or your girl friend or boy friend, you have that bubbling joy and urge pushing you when can I go and meet them. Yes my dear friend you must have more than double that thirst for the Lord. Why? Because He is the one who gave you life, He is the one who saved you from destruction. He is the one whose love for you never changes. It has no limit it never ends and He is the one who can bless you with an eternal blessing.

When you have that love for the Lord that comes from deep within you, your heart bubbles just like it did for David as he was writing the psalms. When can I go and meet you Lord? Oh I am so thirsty for the Lord. Even my body longs to be in Your presence. This is the first step for you to have a victorious prayer life. You need to have that thirst and that longing for the Lord. The Lord Jesus said in *Matthew 22:37 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment.'* Yes my friend when you have this kind of love for the Lord, overcoming your flesh or tiredness of your body becomes easier. So today you must do a status check of yourself. Do you Love the Lord as the Lord Jesus tells you? Do you have that longing and thirst within you for the Lord which drives you saying when can I go and meet with Him? Ask yourself that and make a firm commitment today that you are going to place the Lord first in your life above all else in your life. The Lord must be first and all else

including family, friends, studies, career, wealth, health and all must be of secondary importance. I am not saying you should totally ignore or give up the others but where you have to make a choice between the Lord and the others **choose the Lord**. This is how we Love the Lord as Matthew 22:37 above says. Once we have this undying love for the Lord there are two other things we require to totally overcome what our body tells us to do when we want to pray. This is covered in the next chapter.

2. THE HOLY SPIRIT TAKES CARE OF IT ALL

Romans 8:26 - 'In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express'

Dear friends in Christ, in the last chapter we learnt how our love for the Lord and the thirst for Him is the first step towards a powerful prayer life. People of God in 1 Kings 18:33, Elijah built an altar in the name of the Lord and he dug a trench around it and he placed wood on the altar. Wood is something that catches fire. It is inflammable. In the same if we want to catch the fire of the Lord we need to be like wood ready to catch the fire. So how do we become like wood? We become like wood ready to catch the fire when we consecrate ourselves. Consecration goes beyond mere setting yourself apart from the world, it is the next level. It is the level where everything in your life revolves around the Lord. He gets the top place in your life and priority over all. This is you loving the Lord with all your heart, soul and mind. Then like wood you are ready to catch the fire.

Dear friend once you are ready to catch fire, for you to overcome what your body is telling you, there is a person you need to be with you and in you to help in the process. He is the Holy Spirit. Yes in John 16:5-15 the Lord Jesus gives us the promise of the Holy Spirit. The Lord details 5 specific works of the Holy Spirit which are

- 1) He will be our counsellor
- 2) He will convict the world of sin
- 3) He will guide us into all truth
- 4) He will tell you what is yet to come
- 5) He will bring glory to the Lord

Yes friends to have a powerful prayer life and a victorious life in general the Holy Spirit is the most important friend on earth we must have. If we want to overcome our fleshly desires and what the body wants to do, we need the Holy Spirit. Romans 8:9-11 is clear about this

'You however are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ he does not belong to Christ. But if Christ is in you your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness. And if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who lives in you.'

The above passage is crystal clear as to why we need the Holy Spirit to come and dwell in us. When He is in us He gives us the strength to overcome the flesh and we make the transition from being flesh led to being Spirit led and in Romans 8:26 above it says it is the Spirit that helps us pray and overcome whatever weaknesses we may have may it be physical or spiritual. My friend in Christ this is why we have to give room for the Holy Spirit in our churches, in our prayer groups, in our bible studies, in our families and in our personal lives. We need the Holy Spirit more than the air that we breathe. You need to be filled with the Spirit and be led by Him and then your prayer life transforms.

So first you have that love for the Lord that is so great that you thirst for Him and secondly you have the Holy Spirit living in you and the third thing for you to overcome that body saying stuff to you is coming up in the next section.

3.

IT IS ONLY BETWEEN YOU AND THE LORD

1 Corinthians 14:2 - 'For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God. Indeed no one understands him; he utters mysteries with his spirit'

My Dear friends in Christ, in the previous chapter we learnt how important the Holy Spirit is for our prayer life. In this chapter I wish to bring to light the importance of one work or gift of the Holy Spirit for our prayer life. It is the gift of tongues. Whilst many may say it is not important to have but I say it is a vital part of our prayer life. Why? Because as detailed in the portion of scripture above it is the spirit man that communicates with the Lord in diverse tongues. This is a language between you and the Lord and even the devil cannot understand what is being said. People of God when you are filled with the Holy Spirit and you get the gift of tongues it is sign that your spirit man is activated and is coming to the forefront and your flesh is been crucified or demoted to a lower position. That is why in your personal prayer time when you pray in the Spirit you feel like a boost of strength to your entire body because *2 Corinthians 12: 9 says 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.'* When you are weak the Lord will make you strong through the power of the Holy Spirit. When we talk to Him in the language that is known only between Him and us it becomes a personal communication between the Lord and ourselves. In this instance since it is the spirit communicating you will not feel anything the body feels nor will you even hear what the body is telling you because you are in the Spirit and it is then that you go on praying and you don't even feel the time going. Why don't you feel time going because you are not in the flesh you are in the Spirit. This I speak from my personal experience and that is why I always pray that the people of God will receive the gift of tongues.

It is like this your spirit is the real you and the one who communicates with the Lord and your flesh is just the outer casing for the real you. When God created man in the Garden of Eden, He wanted them to be spirit led that is where your spirit is in the forefront and thereby freely communicating with God. The flesh was just to be an outer casing so Adam and Eve were not sensitive to what the 5 senses were telling them. They were only sensitive to what the Lord was

telling their spirit. But when Adam and Eve sinned something happened. Genesis 3:7 says 'then the eyes of both of them were opened and they realized they were naked;' People of God from being Spirit sensitive they went to being 5 senses or flesh sensitive. They realised they were naked. Hence since we are flesh sensitive or sensitive to the 5 human senses, we are aroused by what we see or hear and we fall into sin. But when you reverse the process by getting filled with the Holy Spirit and getting into the move of praying in the spirit you are bringing your spirit man to the forefront and you are becoming spirit sensitive. This is why you can pray all day long and not feel it. So when you have a prayer life that is spirit led, you come to a position where even if something that would arouse the flesh would come and stand in front of you, you will not be aroused nor tempted because your flesh is dead in you and it is the Spirit that is in control. This is what is said in *Galatians 5:16* '*So I say live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature.*'

So this is why being filled with the Holy Spirit and receiving His gifts is important for our daily life. For when we receive the Spirit we become born of God and when we are born of God we are able to overcome all things (1 John 5:4) and this includes what our body tells us. People of God now you know what you require to lay the foundation for a powerful prayer life. You need to have an unquenchable thirst and love for the Lord, you need to be filled with the Holy Spirit and you need to ask the Holy Spirit to give you the gift of tongues and the interpretation of it as well. So from today when you pray ask the Lord to give you the gift of tongues. Keep praising Him and be after Him saying Lord I want it Lord I want it and you will see your tongue starting to speak something different that is the Holy Spirit touching your tongue. Keep speaking that and the Lord will add to that and your spirit will be instantly communicating with the Lord and you will gradually see in your life how you become spirit led and the desires of the flesh just fade away.

4. BE A FAITHFUL STEWARD

Matthew 6:5 'and when you pray do not be like the hypocrites for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men'

When I was in school there used to be a master who was a so called Christian man, who used to come into class sit down and tell us to do whatever we want and he takes the Daily Bread book and is reading it the whole period. Now as a 16-17 year old that was just perfect. We had a free period to do whatever we want and run amok. But then again now that I have matured when I think about what this man was doing, it is something that is honestly wrong. He was paid to teach but more than that he had a responsibility to prepare us for our exams and our future ahead. Instead he was reading and whilst that maybe a Christian book and he might think he is becoming spiritual I don't think God will see it as that. The Lord prefers faithful stewards who will do an honest job no matter what whether it be relating to the ministry or their secular jobs.

Why I narrated this story is that we should not beat the drum about how we pray, how spiritual we are and how much we pray. Some people don't want to pray at home they say we will go to church and pray. Why? Do you want attention about how spiritual you are? Some people come to work and read the Bible. Whilst that maybe good, I don't think you are going to get extra points from the Lord for that because no matter what you do you need to be a faithful steward wherever you maybe and not embarrass the Lord anywhere.

Now the Lord Jesus quite clearly detailed how our prayer life should be in Matthew chapter 6 verses 6 to 8. Let us know look at how we should pray in the manner the Lord wants us to.

- 1) Vs 6 'But when you pray go into your room' - Set time apart. Don't try to squeeze in your prayer time between two tasks or try to do multiple things whilst praying. The Lord is saying go into your room which means finish whatever you have to do and go into a place where you will not be disturbed and you can spend time with Him. You should make a decision and a commitment that this time to this time I am going to spend with the Lord and I will not put any work or appointment or chore during that time. For those who work it might be a time before you sleep or you may get up early

and pray. Trust me when I say a little sacrifice of your sleep for the Lord is worth it as the resulting reward for same is bountiful. I can testify to that strongly.

- 2) Vs 6 'close the door' – Separate yourself. Like I said don't try to multi task. Don't take the phone in with you to the room or keep the TV or radio running or anything. Cut yourself off completely from the world for that time period. That is what the Lord wants from you.
- 3) Vs 6 'pray to your Father' – Let it be all about the Lord and not about you. Don't make your prayer like Santa's wish list. You need to ask the Lord what He wants from you and what He has in store for you and you need to commune with Him during that time. Many make the mistake of just going on and on saying bless me, use me, give me and so on so forth. We should praise and thank the Lord we should worship Him we should ask Him to talk to us. That is prayer
- 4) Vs 7 'and when you pray do not keep babbling' – don't make it a routine thing where you have a standard set of words or order of things to pray. Make it Spirit Led. Every time you sit down to pray you need to ask the Holy Spirit to take over, to fill that place with the presence and the glory of the Lord and let Him takeover that moment. It should be like a mini worship service in that room of yours. Ask the Lord to send His angels to sing and worship with you. The Lord will and you will truly enjoy the presence of the Lord
- 5) Vs 8 'do not be like them' – Do not try to imitate anyone. Be yourself. Be honest. Be genuine. Pray from your heart. Many ask others or listen to others talk about how they do things and try to imitate them and do the same thing. When we hear someone saying they pray for 3 hours we say we must pray for 3 hours too or something is wrong and our whole aim becomes to pray for 3 hours and I know for fact what happens is that you will be checking the watch every now and again to see how long you have prayed and when you see it is still not even close you get disheartened. People of God it is not about the time you spend it is about the quality of the time spent. If the presence of God comes and fills that room and you talk to God and He talks to you that is all that is needed and it will be a glorious experience. When that happens not 3 hours you might end up in that room for even 6 hours because as I told you earlier when you are in the Spirit you don't feel time moving.

So my dear friends in Christ, the Lord has given us practical steps as to how to pray and I too have learnt from this portion and followed the same in my life

and seen untold benefits from it. I sincerely hope you too will follow the principles that the Lord has laid for us and I know you will be greatly blessed and that Lord will open your spiritual eyes to see heavenly visions and see Him face to face. Praise the Lord for His greatness and goodness.

5. A RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR FATHER.

My Dear Friend in Christ, prayer is a mighty weapon of mass destruction in the hands of the righteous child of God. From this chapter onwards I want to detail to you the ingredients of an effective or powerful prayer life. Our Lord Jesus has taught and given us the ingredients for our prayerful life so lovingly in Luke 11:2-4. Yes it is the Lord's Prayer. Sadly today this powerful scripture and the prayer is repeated off in a meaningless, emotionless and monotonous manner which many people think it is just something that we should not give due care about. People of God Hosea 4:6 says 'My People are destroyed from lack of knowledge.' Yes my friend the Lord's Prayer carries deep spiritual meaning and it is not just a model prayer to be repeated. The purpose behind the Lord teaching this to us is to give us a deep revelation about what should prayer be about or what are the ingredients that go into making prayer a weapon in our hands. Now let us go deep into Luke 11:2-4 and identify the ingredients.

Ingredient No 1 – Our Father

The Lord tells us to start our prayer by saying our Father. What is He telling us? For us to start a life of prayer we first need a relationship with Him. Do we call each and everyone we meet Father. No we called our earthly Father by that name because he helped bring us into this world and he has been with us from birth and taken care of us like his life. We have developed a lifelong relationship with him and hence we call him Dada, thathi or appachchi. In the same way for our prayer life to commence or be effective we need a relationship with the Lord. What does it mean to have a relationship with the Lord? Revelation 3:20 says 'Behold I stand at the door and knock, If anyone hears my voice and open the door, **I will come in and eat with Him and he with me.**'

My dear child, you may say I am born again, I am a Christian, I know Christ, but I want to ask you this; Are you **IN CHRIST**? This is powerful. Romans 8:1 says there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. What does it mean to be in Christ Jesus? My child, Revelation 3:20 speaks of the Lord Jesus not only coming into your life but coming and having a relationship with

you (it speaks of eating with Him and you with Him). Most of us have opened the door and let Jesus in but that's it for us. But I ask you today are you in a relationship with Him or is He just a roommate. What are your answers to the followings questions?

- 1) Is He a part of every aspect of your life?
- 2) Have you given Him room to change all aspects of your life?
- 3) Are you living a new life in Christ leaving behind your old life of the world behind?
- 4) Are you daily in prayer and meditation of the Word not just for 5-10 minutes but have a meaningful communion with Him?
- 5) Are you filled with the Spirit?

If the answers are a truthful and honest Yes then you are in a relationship. If it is a no then just like having a roommate you share no intimacy. It is just an arrangement to live under one roof temporarily. There is a difference between being in a relationship and just living with a person. The difference is intimacy or you are into each other. So in Christ means you are in a deep meaningful relationship with Him for eternity. Yes to all of these questions means you are IN CHRIST as that is what happens when you are in a relationship with Jesus.

Now when you are in Christ there are physical manifestations of that relationship or you could say the affects of being in a relationship which spill over to your life here on earth in society. In John 15:5 the Lord says 'I am the vine you are the branches. If a man remains in Me and I in him, He will bear much fruit and verses 7 and 8 of the same chapter says 'If you remain in Me and My words remain in you ask whatever you wish and it will be given you. This is to My Father's glory, that you bear much fruit showing yourselves to be My disciples.' The fruit that we will bear when we are in Christ is Galatians 5:22 which are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. My dear child this is the double portion the Lord wants to give you in place of your past shame and pain; it is a life full of the fruit of the Spirit. You will have so much peace so much joy so much love. Oh what a glorious life the Lord has for you if you will be IN HIM in other words you will be a branch firmly planted in the tree that is Jesus.

So today if you want to have that close personal relationship with the Lord, obey the teaching of the Lord and live a life that pleases God which is a life that gives more time to Him and His Spirit. 1 John 3 19-22 says 'This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in His presence: If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our

hearts, and He knows everything. Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God and receive from Him anything we ask, **because we keep His commands and do what pleases him.** Yes, my friend in Christ, a relationship with the Father means living a life that pleases Him. 1 Thessalonians 4:1 tells us to live in order to please God. 1 Thessalonians 4:7-8 says 'For God did not call us to be impure but live a holy life. Therefore, he who rejects this instruction does not reject man but God, who gives you His Holy Spirit.' Yes, let us not only commence a relationship with the Lord but also live and grow in that relationship by living to please Him and this is the first step towards a powerful life of prayer my friend.

6.

HIS NAME IS HOLY

My Dear Friend in Christ, the 2nd ingredient for a powerful life of prayer is an ingredient that is very dear to our Father in Heaven

Ingredient No 2 – Hallowed be Thy name

Hallowed means holy, sacred, blessed is Thy name. It is a call to remember that you serve a Holy God and it is a call to worship Him in that holiness. 1 Chronicles 16:29 says 'Ascribe to the Lord the glory due His name. Bring an offering and come before Him; worship the Lord in the splendour (beauty) of His Holiness'. Yes my Dear Friend as you sit to pray and begin to worship the Lord remember Psalm 15 in full which says '*Lord who may dwell in Your sanctuary? Who may live on Your holy hill? He whose walk is blameless and who does what is righteous, who speaks the truth from his heart and has no slander on his tongue, who does his neighbour no wrong and casts no slur on his fellowmen, who despise a vile man but honours those who fear the Lord, who keeps his oath even when it hurts, who lends His money without usury and does not accept a bribe against the innocent. He who does these things will never be shaken.*'

Yes when you lift up hands in worship to the Lord and you want His presence (denoted by the word sanctuary) to come on you and want to see and talk to the Lord remember the following instructions give in Psalm 15

- 1) You should live a life that is pleasing to God.
- 2) You should always do what is righteous which means all your actions must be in accordance with the Word of God.
- 3) You should be a speaker of truth. Do not twist the word of God to suit a double life style because you want a bit of the world and a bit of God. When you see the Lord's word being twisted speak up against it.
- 4) Do not talk bad about people behind their back. Do not character assassinate people.
- 5) Be good to all those around you just as Paul said in Hebrews 12:14 'Make every effort to live in peace with all men'. You should not be a person who fights, argues and creates conflict and strife. You should be the one that reflects the Prince of peace on this earth.

- 6) Do not curse anyone. No matter how angry people make you or annoy you do not curse them with your mouth like saying I wish you drop dead or why on earth were you born. Do not say such things.
- 7) Respect people who live godly life but keep your distance from those who love to sin. This does not mean you cannot have unbelievers as friends. It means you cannot do what they do no matter how much they force you and want you to come, you will have to say no to the places they go or the things they want to do. Also if a so called born again person is living a double life then have no connection with that person otherwise you will get defiled. 1 Corinthians 5:11 tells us not to have anything to do with unrepentant Christians who are leading a double life.
- 8) Be a man or woman of your word. Do not be a person who changes with the wind. A person whom no one can trust or rely on. Don't be like that. Let your Yes be a firm Yes and your no be a firm no. People should be able to rely and trust you.
- 9) Help people without expecting anything in return. That is the type of charity or helping others that Jesus wants us to do.
- 10) Do not be dishonest. Do not accept money unfairly. No taking bribes. Even when you are trying to sell a land or a vehicle you own, don't try to make an unfair profit out of it or don't try to mislead people when you are selling it. Ask a fair price that is just and right. You know it in your heart what will be fair. If the Holy Spirit is in you He convicts.

So my Friend, when we sit to pray and say to the Lord, 'Holy are you Lord' and begin to worship we need to make sure our lives reflect that holiness of the Lord otherwise we cannot worship Him in that beauty or splendour of His holiness. John 4:24 says true worshippers will worship Him in Spirit and in truth. Let us look at this verse in depth now.

What does it mean to worship in Spirit? You cannot worship the Lord in the physical as it is your spirit man that communicates with the Lord. The human is made of 3 things, the spirit, the soul and the body. This was the order of control in which man and woman were destined to be when God created them. But when Adam sinned this order was broken and the flesh took the foremost place and we became fleshly being prone to sin. So in this context how can we reduce our flesh and bring out the spirit man into prominence. We need to live the new life the Lord gave us when we were born again (Romans 6:1-4) and live in accordance with the word of God (Romans 8:5) and let the Holy Spirit take control and give Him room to move (Romans 8:9). Simply put you tune

out of the frequency of this world and tune into the frequency of the Spirit. Many people say it is hard to live like what the Bible says. Their excuse is we are in this world so we have to do things to please people and be accepted in society and enjoy life. My answer to you is who is greater God or man. Whom would you rather please God or man? What is the reward in having a minute of pleasure on this earth but spending eternity in the lake of Fire (Matthew 16: 26-27). My Dear Friends in Christ if you live a holy life, not only will you spend eternity with Christ but the Bible is very clear that here on earth the Lord blesses the upright (Joshua 1:8) abundantly. So it is worth pleasing God rather than pleasing friends, family or peers.

Secondly you worship God in truth. Hebrew 12:28 & 29 says 'Therefore since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken let us be thankful and **so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe for our God is a consuming fire**'. You have to worship the Lord in a righteous manner in reverent fear. You have to give the Lord due respect. A lot of people think that the Lord is some kind of teddy bear that they can toss around and do whatever they want and order around as they please. But my friend the Lord Jesus is full of love but He is also the God of righteousness and judgement. Nahum 1:2-3 says 'The Lord is a jealous and avenging God; the Lord takes vengeance and is filled with wrath. The Lord takes vengeance on His foes and maintains His wrath against His enemies. The Lord is slow to anger and great in power, the Lord will not leave the guilty unpunished.' It also says in Nahum 1:7 'The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in Him.' Yes the Lord loves those who follow and obey Him but if you continue to reject or disobey Him even after He has saved you, then you will have to face His wrath and vengeance. So my friend we have to be respectful of the Lord and stand in awe of Him. The Prophet Zephaniah says in Zephaniah 1:7 'Be silent before the Sovereign Lord'. Why does he say so? You need to be careful of what you say to the Lord. Many of us when things go wrong or when the Lord corrects us, our first inclination is to say something against God or hurtful to God. Do not do that. Don't let your mouth utter such things against the Lord who is your refuge in times of trouble. Ecclesiastes 5:1-2 says 'Guard your steps when you go to the house of God. Go near to listen rather than to offer the sacrifice of fools, who do not know that they do wrong. Do not be quick with your mouth do not be hasty in your heart to utter anything before God. God is in heaven and you are on earth so let your word be few.' So my friend remember this, God does not work according to our time as Ecclesiastes 3:11 says He makes everything beautiful in His time. We might want an answer in a day or two but the Lord will move only when He knows it is the correct time for you and it is

in accordance with His plan for your life. So all you have to do is commit your life to God (Psalm 37:5) and say Lord I know the plans you have for me are so good (Jeremiah 29:11), so I will not be anxious (Luke 12:22-34). I praise you and thank you and glorify you for all the wonderful things you are doing for me. That is all you must say daily to the Lord. Do not utter negative things like I don't want God, God does for everyone else but me, That person is getting blessed but not me, what about me why isn't anything happening, I wanna go back, I don't think I am worthy. Don't say those things. If you have nothing else to say be silent because you serve a Holy and living God who is an all consuming fire.

Now there is also a right way and a wrong way to worship the Lord. Why do I say there is a wrong way? You cannot copy the world because worship is a holy thing. Worship should originate from the Lord and be about the Lord. Psalms 22:25 says 'from You comes the theme of my praise in the great assembly'. You do not need to draw inspiration from the world to worship the Lord. Do not imitate the music styles or mannerism or performances of the secular world. 1 John 2:15-17 tells not to love things of this world because it will lead you away from God. All you need is the Spirit of the Lord as it is the Holy Spirit's duty to bring glory to Jesus and when He leads the service the presence of the Lord will come. True worshippers will give total freedom to the Holy Spirit in their lives and in their ministry and worship the Lord in holiness. When you worship the Lord in holiness you will see powerful things in your lives and your prayers will shake nations and continents for the Lord.

7.

LET THE KINGDOM OF THE LORD REIGN

The 3rd ingredient for a prayer life is something that will impact this world. It is an ingredient Moses cried out for to the Lord.

Ingredient No 3 – Your kingdom come

What does the Lord mean by asking us to pray Your kingdom come? He is referring to the presence of the Lord. Ask for the presence of the Lord to come into that room and into your life and dwell with you. In Exodus 33: 15-17 Moses describes the importance of the presence of the Lord. Moses said to the Lord 'if Your presence does not go with us, do not send us from here. How will anyone know that You are pleased with me and with Your people unless You go with us? What else will distinguish me and Your people from all the other people on the face of the earth? And the Lord said to Moses 'I will do the very thing you have asked, because I am pleased with you and I know you by name.'

Before we go any further we need to know what does the presence of the Lord mean? It means the Lord is with you (Joshua 1:5). He is by your side leading you and guiding you. You feel Him near you. Your spirit communes with Him directly. Psalm 89:15 says 'Blessed are those who have acclaimed You who walk in the light of Your presence O Lord'. The Lord walks with you and you with Him.

Why do we need the presence of God? Moses says he needs the presence of God because how else will he know that the Lord is pleased with Him and what else will distinguish him and the people from the rest of the world. Yes my friend, when the presence of the Lord is with you, the Lord's favour is on you. What does it mean to have the favour of the Lord? Psalm 5:12 says 'For surely O Lord You bless the righteous; You surround them with Your favour as with a shield.' The Hebrew word used for favour is *racon* which means to be pleased with, delighted in and be held in high esteem. Wow God holding you in high esteem. That is the favour of God. It is this favour that Moses wanted and that is why he was crying to the Lord for His presence to come with them. It is this favour that brought Joseph from the pit to the palace. It is this favour that made Daniel the most sought after man both in the Babylonian and Persian Empire. Daniel 6: 1-3 says 'It pleased Darius to appoint 120 satraps to

rule throughout the kingdom, with three administrators over them one of whom was Daniel. The straps were made accountable to them so that the King might not suffer loss. Now Daniel so distinguished himself among the satraps by his exceptional qualities that the King planned to set **him over the whole kingdom.** Yes Daniel was made the Prime minister of the empire eventually and it is this favour of the Lord that was upon him that made him distinguished from the rest. It is this favour that made a Queen out of Esther who was a Jewish slave in the Persian Empire. It is this favour that made the King chose Esther from amongst the other girls who came before him. Esther 2:17 says 'Now the King was attracted to Esther more than to any of the other women and she won his favour and approval.' Esther 2:15 says Esther won the favour of everyone who saw her. People of God, the other Babylonian girls were native to that land and would have had all the beauty treatments of that time availed to them from their young days. Esther came as a slave from her Jewish homeland and lived in subjection there. Yet the favour of the Lord was upon her and she became the Queen and the saviour of her Jewish people as you will read in the latter part of the book of Esther.

People of God the favour of God can do mighty things in your life. You will walk into a government department and because of the favour of God that is on you, the officials there will give your work priority over the others. Why? Because they see something different. Something draws them to you. A few months ago I had to pick up a parcel that came by post from the General Post office near Lake House. For people who have been there you'll know you have to take a number and then they go looking for your parcel in the mail room and you have to wait till they call you. There is always a large crowd waiting to pick up their parcels and people wait for long. I walked in took my number and was sitting and not even 15 minutes suddenly an official walked upto me and asked my number and what is the parcel and he went in and brought it out and checked and released it then and there before all the other people who were there before me. Now that is unfair by the other people but that is what the favour of the Lord does for you. It gives you that unfair advantage to put it crudely. I hope you don't think I am boasting by sharing my experience but I had to testify of the goodness of the Lord because that was not the first time something like that has happened and I am sure many of you would or will have that testimony to share when you have the presence of the Lord with you. Psalm 23: 6 says 'surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life'. Yes that is what the favour of the Lord does and for you to have the favour you need the presence of God with you. Yes when the presence of the Lord is with you people will know it. The outside world will see a glory on you. They

will see the Lord Jesus all over you. That is why the Lord is teaching us here to ask for the presence of the Lord to come.

People of God not only should the presence of God come but it should dwell with you day and night. The Lord's presence in Exodus 13:21 by day was a pillar of cloud to guide the Israelites on their way and by night a pillar of fire to give them light. Yes the presence of the Lord was with the children of Israel all throughout the day to guide and to show them the way. To have the presence of the Lord daily, you have to dwell in that presence. Psalm 91: 1 says 'He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.' For you to have the presence of God to come into your life and dwell with you, you need to have the first two ingredients that I spoke of which are a relationship with the Lord and holiness in your life. The Lord will not come and dwell in an unholy vessel. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 says 'do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you whom you have received from God? You are not you own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honour God with your body.' 1 Corinthians 3:16-17 says 'Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him; for God's temple is sacred and you are that temple' My dear friend **HOLINESS IS VITAL FOR THE PRESENCE OF GOD TO COME INTO YOUR LIFE.**

When the presence of the Lord rests upon you, the favour of the Lord is always upon you and great blessing will follow thereafter. Hallelujah to the Lord who loves us so much. This is the 3rd ingredient for your prayer life.

8.

YOUR NEEDS

The 4th ingredient found in the Lord's prayer (Luke 11:2-4) is one thing that will definitely interest all the readers now.

Ingredient No 4 – Give us each day our daily bread

Yes, my friend the Lord cares about how we live our daily lives. He knows we have to pay bills, He knows we have to study; He knows we would love to have our own house and He knows we would love to drive a nice car. Psalm 55:22 says 'Cast your care upon the Lord and He will sustain you; He will never let the righteous be moved.' Psalm 53:8 says 'But I am like an olive tree flourishing in the House of the Lord'. Psalm 68: 18 says 'Praise be to the Lord, to God our Saviour, who daily bears our burdens.' Yes the Lord wants to see us lead a blessed life and not worry about how tomorrow will be or how we will meet our needs. Luke 12: 22- 34 gives us a detailed view of how we should approach our daily needs.

Luke 12:22-34 'Then Jesus said to His disciples 'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. Life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have not storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to this life? Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest? Consider how the lilies grow. They do not labour or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith. And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them. But seek His kingdom and these things will be given to you as well. Do not be afraid little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will not be exhausted, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.'

People of God, the scripture above give us two very vital commands about our

daily life or our financial side of life. The first command is DO NOT WORRY. The Second command is Seek first the Kingdom of God because where our treasure is there our heart will be.

Do Not Worry

Yes more often than not our whole prayer is about our needs and wants because our whole day or a good part of it is spent worrying about money. The Lord is saying do not worry, I know what you need and I will do it. Focus your eyes on Me and give My things priority and I will take care of the rest. That is why the Psalmist says cast your care upon the Lord because He knows what to do. We should never worry about financial matters because if we place the Lord first in our life He will do the needful with respect to your finances. The covenant the Lord is putting forth is seek His kingdom and these things will be given to you as well. The terms of the covenant are if we give Him priority He will take care of the rest. Watch closely what the Lord is saying when teaching us to pray. He says give us our daily bread. He did not say give our bread for the week, the month, the year. It says daily. It talks about now. What is the Lord Jesus saying? Don't worry about tomorrow, it is in My hand. You focus on me and my things. Jeremiah 29:11-13 says 'For I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plan to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me and I will listen to you.' Wow isn't this crystal clear. We don't need to worry because the Lord has a good plan for us. It is a plan for prosperity. So when we have that confidence in the Lord and we sit down and pray saying give us each day our daily bread you are saying Lord I know you've blessed me, you have a plan for me and I thank you for meeting all my needs. That is an effective prayer of power. When you pray in faith whatever the Lord has planned for you is brought to pass in your life because you stand firm in faith and you give priority to the Lord. The key is not to go into pray with worry rather you go into prayer full of confidence that my Father knows and my Father will do it for me (Jeremiah 29:10-11). Now worrying is a dangerous thing.

Worry is one the foremost avenues through which the devil enters into a believer's life. Why? Because worry eventually leads to fear and where there is fear there is satan. Satan can attack if fear resides in your heart. For example if you start worrying thinking prices of goods are going up, news says the rupee value is falling and the economy growth is stalling, the next thing you begin worrying about is what is going to happen to me and a great fear comes over you. Now all those things that you have worried about are probably

factual. They are happening now and that is the state of affairs in the world now. But the question is should you worry about the state of affairs of the world. Are you governed by the state of affairs of the world? Philippians 4:19 says 'And my God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus.' The Lord promises to meet your all needs no matter what they are. The beautiful thing here is there is no mention about the state of affairs of the world or that the blessing is contingent on the current financial situation in the world. Instead the Lord refers to a higher law of an eternal Kingdom. The Lord says from His glorious riches He will meet all your needs. Yes you are governed by the laws of the Kingdom of God and not the financial or economic situation of this world. 1 John 2:17 says 'The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.' So my friend whether it be the state of the economy or your about to sit for an exam or awaiting results or you're looking for a job or awaiting a promotion or you're looking for a house or you're waiting to get married or you have some sickness or there is some problem in your life, the Prophet Zephaniah gives us 5 reasons why we should not worry

Zephaniah 3:17 'The Lord your God is with you, He is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing.'

- 1) The Lord your God is with you – When the presence of God is with you, you can be guaranteed that everything is going to be okay. Because the presence of the Lord was with David, he boldly challenged Goliath the giant and defeated him. Because the presence of God was with Gideon with an army of 300 he defeated the whole host of Midian. That is why we insist on a being filled with the Holy Spirit and leading a holy life. When these two conditions are met only will the presence of God dwell with you.
- 2) He is mighty to save – We sometimes forget who the Lord is. We think He is governed by the state of affairs of this world and is constrained by it. Psalm 104: 5-9 says 'He set the earth on its foundations; it can never be moved. You covered it with the deep as with a garment; the waters stood above the mountains. But at your rebuke the waters fled, at the sound of your thunder they took to flight; they flowed over the mountains they went down into the valleys to the place you assigned for them. You set a boundary they cannot cross never again will they cover the earth.' Basically the earth listens to the Lord so my friend you do not need to worry. **THE LORD IS MIGHTY TO SAVE YOU!**
- 3) He will take great delight in you – His favour is all you need to lead this life.

It is the favour of God that made Joseph win the approval of Pharaoh. It is the favour of God that made a Prime Minister of an Empire out of a prisoner boy named Daniel. It is the favour of God that made a Queen of an Empire out of Esther who was an exile in the land of Persia. Favour means that the Lord holds you in high esteem and honours you. The favour of the Lord is always upon the righteous (Psalm 6:12 'For surely O Lord you bless the righteous; you surround them with your favour as with a shield.')

- 4) He will quiet you with His love - John 14:27 says 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.' The peace the Lord promises in Hebrew is called shalom and this encompasses tranquillity, rest, calm, harmony, unity, well being and prosperity.
- 5) He will rejoice over you with singing – There is nothing comparable to the Joy of the Lord. Sometimes people in office ask me how come you're not coming to this party that party it is going to be so fun. Next day when you meet them that joy they had has diminished because the fun only lasted for a few hours and then back again in the morning they still have that emptiness in their hearts. But the Joy of the Lord lasts forever and it only increases every time you are in the presence of the Lord praising and worshipping Him. Psalm 84:10 says 'better is one day in your courts than a thousand days elsewhere' So keep praising and worshipping Him on every occasion and His joy will come over you that is His promise.

So my friends I have showed you from the WORD, 5 reasons why you should not worry or be anxious for any reason whatsoever. So I pray that from this forward you will keep these 5 reasons in your heart and no matter what the situation is you will not worry because the Lord is with you, He is mighty to save, His favour is upon you, His peace is with you and His joy will be your strength.

Seek the Lord first

Yes my friends the Lord wants to bless you like He blessed Abraham and all the people in the Bible. None of the People in the Bible were poor, they were wealthy people. But an important point to note about all these people in the Bible was their heart was not on their wealth or their earthly needs. Their eyes were firmly fixed on the Lord and doing what He wants. 1 Timothy 6:9-10 says 'People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.'

Now let us talk a bit about money. Hebrews 13:5 says 'Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said 'Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you'. In this world to buy and sell goods and services, money is the medium for settling transactions. God knows that because He is the one who gave men the knowledge to develop this financial system. So God knows you need money. Philippians 4:19 says 'And my God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus.' The Lord promised to meet your needs. Now He is not going to throw down from heaven a kilo of rice, dhal, vegetables and meat for you to cook your daily meals, rather He works with the system He has placed in the world. But He is not constrained nor hindered by the adverse state of affairs of the earthly system which has been caused by man, to bless you. Hence He will bless you with financial increase even in time of famine, recession and drought. In Genesis 26:1-15, Isaac planted crops in famine time and the same year he reaped a hundred fold harvest because THE LORD BLESSED HIM.

Now Isaac had to do something to receive His blessing. He had to plant crops or in other words labour or work or be employed. That is the system the Lord has placed in the world. In Genesis 3: 19 the Lord cursed Adam because of his sin saying 'by the sweat of your brow you will eat your food'. So we have to work for our livelihood and for our work we are paid our dues by way of salary or wages or profit from the business. That is the system placed on this earth by the Lord. So you cannot lounge around in your couch and expect the Lord to drop a bag full of notes to your lap. You have to toil a little.

Now here is the main point which I wish to emphasis now which is having money is not evil or sinful, but what is sinful is what is said in Hebrews 13:5 and 1 Timothy 6:9-10. Having money is not a sin but the love for money and a sole desire to make money no matter what, is a sin. The Lord does not want our hearts governed by a love for money. What do you mean by the love of money? Look around the world today, people will do anything to earn money. Some work around the clock just to make a extra money, some break the law just to make some money, some even sell their children for money, some sell their bodies for money, some even forge signatures just to get their hands on money and so on so forth. Now the problem here is that money is placed over God. We give priority to making money and we try to make that money whichever way possible. More often than not at the cost of our relationship with God. Many people I know spend their entire life trying to find ways to make more money. They have no time for God. They have no time for His

things and what happens, the money they earn flows out through some other way and they lose whatever they have worked for. When the Lord blesses you that blessing is one that endures forever irrespective of the state of affairs of the economy and financial system of the world. But what the devil gives he takes it back. Hence it is a million times better to always give priority to the Lord. Don't be greedy for wealth or riches or things of the world. Know this; the Lord will bless you and prosper you and give you wealth but you cannot make your whole life solely about money. Your whole life must be about the Lord and pleasing Him then only will you get that abundant blessing here on earth. 1 Timothy 6:6 says 'Godliness with contentment is great gain.' Be happy and thankful with what you have. Don't go after wealth let it come after you. Because if you go after it, you are to going end up falling into a great pit because satan will trap you. I Timothy 6:17-19 says 'Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but **to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.** Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.' Yes our main aim must be to make it to heaven and live forever with the Lord and not put our entire heart and soul on temporary earthly matters.

Before I close this chapter I want to talk you on what the prosperity of the Lord is? I briefly touched on this earlier but let me go in depth now.

John 14:27 says 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.'

The Greek word for peace is Eirene and the Hebrew word for it is Shalom. The definition given for the words in both Greek and Hebrew languages are one and the same. It means tranquillity, rest, calm, harmony, unity, well being and prosperity. Peace means all these things. It is a packaged deal. When Jesus is talking about peace in the verse above He is not talking about political peace. Rather He is giving us a promise for our personal lives. This is the Biblical prosperity that Abraham had and all the other men and women of God in the Bible had. They had the entire package. Yes they had wealth but they also had a life that was characterized by good health, rest, calm, tranquillity, harmony and unity (no strife or fighting). Yes this is the peace or shalom or eirene that the Lord has in store for us when we come into His Kingdom.

Today many preach about prosperity but more often than not the preaching is

only about money and fame. Now know this there are two kinds of prosperity in this world. One is from the Lord and the other from the devil. Yes satan also can bless but when he blesses he blesses with only two things. When the Lord blesses the Lord bestows on us SHALOM- the entire package of peace. What is it that satan blesses people with? In Matthew 4 we read that Jesus after He was baptized was led by the Spirit into the desert and there He was tempted by the devil. The Lord fasted for 40 days and night in the desert. After the Lord overcame the first two temptations for the third one satan told the Lord Jesus the following. Matthew 4:8-10 "Again the devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. All this I will give you he said if you will bow down and worship me. Jesus said to him 'Away from me, satan! For it is written: Worship the Lord your God and serve Him only.'" Yes when the devil blesses he gives only two things money and fame and that too comes with a catch – you end up serving him and when you serve him it is a direct one way ticket to hell. That is why you see many of these actors, singers, musicians, sportsmen, businessmen, corporate executives, they have all the money and fame in the world and they do not believe in God. But their personal life is full of misery. Broken families, addiction, no peace basically no life- no Shalom. In the end satan takes their life in the most tragic way possible. You would have read in the papers in the recent past about the deaths of many famous people and how tragic their death was and how pathetic their personal lives away from stage had been. This is the reward for serving satan and rejecting God. Every time a person rejects God and rejects a lifestyle of holiness they accept satan and serve him. That is the plain truth. If you are not obeying God then you are obeying satan. Though you may not openly say or think you are following satan, if you do not obey the Lord Jesus then what you are doing is following satan (1 John 3:4-10).

But the great promise for us who are the Children of the Lord Jesus Christ is that we do not need to be afraid or be troubled about what happens to the world or the people of the world. We have a promise that supersedes all systems of the world. This promise is called Shalom. Though the world may go into recession, though there will be famine in the world, you who are children of God need not worry. Why? Because if you are truly living for Christ and obeying His word, the Lord has given us His peace which covers every aspect of our life from tranquillity to well being to prosperity. That is how good our Jesus is. He does not do anything half way. He always gives us the full deal. Shalom to you my friend. May the Lord shower you with Shalom abundantly from this day forward even as you live to please the Lord.

So when you pray the Lord says **DO NOT WORRY BUT SEEK ME FIRST**

AND ALL YOUR NEEDS WILL BE MET NO MATTER WHAT THEY ARE. Yes when you do this your prayer life is full of power and you will see overflow all the days of your life. Praise the Lord.

9.

WALK AWAY FROM SIN

As we continue to study the Lord's Prayer (Luke 11:2-4) we now have come to the 5th ingredient for a prayer of power. Let us look at this in detail now

Ingredient No 5 – Forgive us our sins

There is a teaching that is going around these days which says once saved always saved. The teaching goes on to say even if you sin thereafter it is okay you still can make it to heaven. I wonder from which Bible they take these teachings because the Bible I read does not say anything even close to it. Some preach that we live in the period of grace; hence God has already forgiven our sins and He already knows we are going to sin, so it is okay to sin you can just keep on confessing I am righteous and go on like that. This is a wrong gospel but this kind of preaching is what will keep many happy in the last days as said in 2 Timothy 4:3-4 'For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths' People will love this kind of preaching because it allows them to continue in their flesh led worldly life style.

But what does the Bible say? Romans 6:1-4 says 'What shall we say then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptised into his death? We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father we too may live a new life.' 2 Timothy 2:19 says 'The Lord knows those who are His and everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness.' Yes all who accept the Lord must turn away from their past life of sin and walk into the new life.

Firstly what is the grace of God? The grace of God means that while we were still sinners Christ died for us (Romans 5:8) and we receive salvation not because we deserve it or because of our works but because of the sacrifice of Jesus we are all made righteous when we believe and receive Him (John 3:16-18). This is the grace that we receive which is when we accept the Lord as our

personal saviour all our sins are washed away by the blood that was shed by the Lord Jesus (Hebrews 9:12) and we stand before the Father washed by the blood of the Lamb, redeemed and made righteous (Hebrews 10:10,14). The past is forgotten in the books of the Lord. It is a new beginning (Please read Romans chapters 5 & 6). But after receiving this grace we cannot continue to live in sin. We need to walk away from our old life which may mean giving up friends, places, habits, activities and even a job sometime. Hebrews 10:26-31 is pretty clear on the gravity of the situation if we continue to sin after receiving salvation. It says 'If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, but only a fearful expectation of judgement and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God. Anyone who rejected the law of Moses died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. How much more severely do you think a man deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God under foot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified him and who has insulted the Spirit of grace. For we know Him who said it is mine to avenge I will repay and again the Lord will judge His people. It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the Living God.'

The answer to whether you can sin because of grace is perfectly answered in the book of Titus. Titus 2:12-14 'For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say No to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope – the glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for Himself a people that are His very own, eager to do what is good.' So my friend you cannot continue to sin after you come into the Kingdom of God. The Lord Jesus always told those whom He forgave 'Sin no more'. So my dear friend, once you are saved, the next step is to live in that salvation. Living in that salvation is very much like training to take part in a sports event.

1 Timothy 4: 7-8 says 'train yourself to be godly. For physical training is of some value but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and life to come.' Now training for an event means strict exercise schedules, strict diet and sacrifice of many personal things. That is how people who train for the Olympics go about in their preparation to win a medal. So Paul is saying in the same way as we are preparing to get that crown in heaven (2 Timothy 4: 7-8) we should train ourselves strictly with what we put into our spirit and make sacrifices in our personal lives to ensure we live a godly life. What does this mean? Once we come into the new life in Christ we cannot live

the way we used to. So what we watch, what we hear, where we go, what we do, how we behave, whom we move with all should be pleasing unto God and in accordance with His word.

2 Timothy 2: 22 says 'Flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace along with those who call on the Lord out of pure heart'. Now you will tell how can we do that we are still young we must enjoy the world. My dear friends, if you notice all my Bible references for this study so far come from the books of Timothy. Timothy was a young man who was having his own struggles as a young person with the temptations of this world and Paul writes these two letters to him to encourage him and keep him on the right path as there were teaching that were going around saying it is okay to have a little of the world and the Lord. 1 Timothy 6:20-21 'Timothy guard what has been entrusted to your care, Turn away from godless chatter and the opposing ideas of what is falsely called knowledge which some have professed and in so doing have wandered from the faith.'

My dear friends in Christ, peer pressure for young people can be a great source of stress and a force of compulsion to do stuff. Friends will always be at your throat come do this come do that there is nothing wrong in it. You lead such a boring life. Oh you missed such a good thing last night. Okay so you do your church thing but come for this also because it is not either on a Saturday or Sunday. Yes in my days I have heard these voices and they are strong and tempting and sometimes really put you down and make you feel lonely like you are missing out on the world.

My dear friend the answer to your question as to why you cannot live as the world does is found in the following verses.

- 1) 2 Timothy 1:9 says 'who has saved us and called us to a holy life not because of anything we have done but because of His own purpose and grace.' - **His plan**
- 2) 2 Timothy 2:3-6 'Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No one serving as a soldier get involved in civilian affairs he wants to please his commanding officer. Similarly, if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not receive the victor's crown unless he competes according to the rules. The hardworking farmer should be the first to receive a share of the crops! - **His blessings**
- 3) 2 Timothy 4: 7-8 'I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness which the Lord, the righteous judge will award to me on that day and not

only to me but to all who have longed for His appearing.' – **Eternity with Him and a reward from Him in heaven**

You are set apart from the world because you are special and chosen of God. 2 Timothy 2: 19 says the Lord knows those who are His. The verses above state the reasons for us to be called to holiness which are the

- 1) Lord's own purpose and grace for us,
- 2) For us to get the victor's crown and
- 3) For us to be caught up to meet the Lord in the air (Rapture).

Yes when you are chosen of God you cannot do what you want with your life. The Lord's will is the one and only will and it is best you give into it or your life will be a mess because nothing you do will prosper when the Lord's hand is not with you.

When Jesus taught us to pray saying forgive our sins He is telling us like an athlete start training yourself to lead a godly life. Now we are not going to become holy overnight. We have to work at it. Philippians 2:12-15 says 'continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purposes. Do everything without complaining or arguing so that you may become blameless and pure children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation in which you shine like stars in the universe'. Yes we are humans and we are bound to fall short of the standard required by the Bible and the Lord is considerate of that as said in 1 John 1: 8 – 2:6. But the key is to repent and put your life right and never ever repeat it again. Do not continue in it. You cannot keep doing it again and again and expecting to get away with it.

Yes daily we need to check ourselves and listen to the Holy Spirit as He convicts us of things that are not pleasing to God and we need to give it up for the Lord. Little things like when driving and someone cuts you off, the urge to put the window down and give the person a good tongue whipping God will tell you don't do that. Little things like speaking bad about someone when they are not there. Things like going and hanging out with friends in a bar or a club, the Holy Spirit will tug at your heart saying don't go and you have to listen. What the Lord Jesus is telling us through the 5th ingredient is that we should be sensitive to the changes the Holy Spirit brings into our life. Psalm 139:23-24 says 'Search me O God and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me and lead me in the way everlasting.' For a powerful life of prayer we need to let the Lord search us and

if there be anything that is not pleasing to Him we need to tell the Lord I want to get rid of it now help me. That will lead you to not only have a powerful prayer life but also make you shine as stars in this world for the Lord and be found blameless and pure, ready to be caught up. Oh how we await for that day when the trumpet will sound and we will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air. Amen.

10. BITTERNESS AND STRIFE – GET RID OF IT AND WALK IN LOVE

Now the 6th ingredient is a very touchy subject as you will see and it is really going to challenge how you live your life in society.

Ingredient No 6 – for we also forgive everyone who sins against us

In Matthew 22: 37-39 when one of the Pharisees asked Him what was the greatest of all commandments in the Law the Lord Jesus said 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbour as yourself.'

Yes walking in love is vital for a powerful prayer life. We cannot sit down to pray with bitterness in our hearts. Ephesians 4:31-32 says 'Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other just as in Christ God forgave you.' As children of God we cannot be filled with an evil nature within us. It is important to note that in life not everyone is going to be nice to you. Not everyone has the best of intention towards you and not everyone else is going to walk in love towards you. But we as children of God cannot fight fire with fire. We should not be revenge seekers and retain bitterness within us as this leads to anger, fighting and slandering and planning evil.

Now how can we Love our neighbour as we love ourselves. Here is how you do that. I want to describe to you how you as an anointed child of God should live in society. Romans 12: 9-21 gives us a detailed character profile of a person who fits the profile of one who loves his or her neighbour in the way the Lord wants us to.

What are these characteristics?

- 1) Verse 9 'Love must be sincere' – Whatever we do our actions must be sincere with no hidden agenda or malice in our heart. Whether it is the work we do in office or chores we do at home or anything we do for someone else we have to do it from our heart and be faithful stewards (Matthew 25: 14-30).
- 2) Verse 10 'Be devoted to one another in brotherly love' – A sense of loyalty

and gratitude. This is something that is so much lacking in the people of God today. When they are in need for a miracle they will come for service every week and stay till the end. After they receive the miracle can I tell you some real life reasons people have given us why they can't come on Saturday some who have received healing from cancer as well – I have to do my laundry, I have to take care of my dog, I have to have a bath in the morning, God told me to stay at home and pray for you'll. My dear friend it is not we who do the miracle. We are just humans made of dust. It is the Lord who does the miracle so we should show our gratitude and loyalty to Him and continue to come again whether it is a weekly service or Sunday church to worship Him and testify of His goodness continually. In the same way we should have that gratitude to anyone anywhere who does something good for us.

- 3) Verse 10 'Honour one another above yourselves' – Give respect where respect is due. Do not be jealous because your friend got a promotion before you or your friend got married before you. Get jealousy out of your system. If someone is doing well in life be happy for them. Encourage them to achieve even more. Sri Lankans have a major problem with seeing people doing well. My dear father used to tell a story to us. There was an emperor who once conquered all the nations in the world and he captured the people and imprisoned each nationality in different pits. Now the Emperor came to inspect the prisoners and he noticed there were guards standing over each and every pit except one. He called the Captain of the guards and asked him you have placed guards over every pit except that one. Why have you not followed my orders to have guards guarding all the prisoners? The Captain replied don't worry my Emperor those prisoners will never escape. Those are the Sri Lankans. Every time one tries to climb out the other pulls him down wanting himself to climb up first and so they never ever manage to get up.' Oh isn't that true of our people. Can't see the neighbour's child getting good results in an exams run to the kattadiya to do witchcraft. My dear friend don't be envious of another person's blessing instead you bless them even more and your Father in Heaven in turn will bless you even more.
- 4) Verse 11 'Never be lacking in zeal but keep your spiritual fervour serving the Lord' – Always be ready and alert to witness for the Lord. Be prepared to minister to someone with the Word of God and tell them of the Hope we have in Christ
- 5) Verse 12 'Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction and faithful in prayer – No

matter what the situation is never lose your joy and patience. These two go hand in hand. Sometimes things won't go the way we want because God has His timing. In that phase we should never let sadness nor allow ourselves to talk against the Lord in impatience. This gives the devil access to your life. But if you let the Joy of the Lord strengthen you (Nehemiah 8:10) and wait patiently for the Lord to move (Isaiah 40:31) you will rise like eagles. Remember JOY and PATIENCE ALWAYS NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS

- 6) Verse 13 'Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality' – If you know a person is in need go help don't wait for someone else to do it. One more thing if someone is in need of help don't just do the bare minimum. Make sure you help out fully. James 2:14-17- faith without action is dead.
- 7) Verse 14 'Bless those who persecute you: bless and do not curse' – Never curse anyone. The Lord does not like it at all. Don't use your tongue to speak death or destruction to anyone. Always let your words bless, encourage and strengthen people (Colossians 4:6).
- 8) Verse 15 'Rejoice with those who rejoice, mourn with those who mourn' – Be a counsellor, a person someone can come and confide in, lean on and trust. This means you don't be a person who talks about other people's past and faults to the entire church congregation. You need to be a person who impacts life through the power of the Lord and be instrumental in changed lives.
- 9) Verse 16 'Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud but be willing to associate with people of low position' IF YOU ARE TRULY BORN OF GOD YOU WILL MOVE WITH ANYONE IRRESPECTIVE OF WHAT THEIR BACKGROUND IS. A true child of God will not have pride. Anyone who wants to be caught up in the rapture they will have zero pride. People of God we must learn to treat everyone as equal and not discriminate based on a person's income, ability to speak English, social status etc. God hates pride and God hates discrimination.
- 10) Verse 17 'Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody' – Walk in integrity. We should practice what we preach. Our actions should be righteous in nature. Easy example in a government department to get something done I am sure everybody recommends you give 'something' to that person and it will be done over the counter. But you who are a child of God cannot give 'something', even if you have to wait a year to get your thing done do it without giving a bribe

and your Father in heaven will be pleased with you. A lot of so called children of God when it comes to taking their driving licences they seem to forget that giving a bribe is prohibited in the Bible. Even if you're failed 10 times. Don't give a bribe. The Lord will reward you for your action.

11) Verse 18 'If it is possible as far as it depends on you live at peace with everyone' – We should not be people who fight and bicker. We should be the people who maintain the peace in any environment wherever we may be, be it the office, home or school. But Paul here acknowledges that there are some people who you just can't be at peace with because they look for strife. What do we do in a situation like this where the person is looking for conflict? Titus 3:10-11 'Warn a divisive person once, and then warn him a second time. After that have nothing to do with Him. You may be sure that such a man is warped and sinful he is self condemned.' Yes we should break all contact with that person then and there. In a work setting where you might have to deal with that person daily what I do in a situation like that is keep my words to a bare minimal with that person. That is the very cordial Good Morning and Good Evening treatment with a broad smile. No chitchat just the bare minimum words for something official and I make the conversation very formal. That way you keep yourself from getting into a situation of strife.

12) Verse 19 'Do not take revenge my friends but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written; It is mine to avenge; I will repay, says the Lord. – The battle is the Lord's. Do not take matters into your own hands. The Lord will deal with all who come against you. Psalm 105:15 'Do not touch my anointed ones; do my prophets no harm.' Zechariah 2: 8-9 'for whoever touches you touches the apple of my eye – I will surely raise my hand against them'. That is our Lord. If anyone touches us they are coming against the Lord because we are the Lord's property.

My dear friends, this chapter in Romans concludes by saying in verse 21 Do not be overcome by evil but overcome evil with good. I would like to title the above characteristics I mentioned as the 12 commands for being a Christian in public. Yes when we live like Christ we can overcome evil with good and thus when we sit down to pray there is no bitterness no anger in our hearts and we can lift up pure and holy hands unto the Lord in prayer. A prayer prayed from a person like that is powerful.

Now I wish close this chapter by going even deeper into the concept of walking in love. 2 John 5-6 says 'And now dear lady, I am not writing you a new command but one we have had from the beginning. I ask that we love one

another. And this is love that we walk in obedience to His commands. As you have heard from the beginning His command is that you walk in love.' The term walking in love is a very commonly used phrase in the body of Christ. It is a prostituted word as many use it as a licence to cover their bad attitude, wrong doings and sin in their life. The moment you correct someone they retort saying you are not walking in love. Now when John spoke of the command to walk in love did he mean that it is a licence to do what we want or an excuse to cover sin?

The Greek word used here to denote love is agapao which is defined as sacrificial love. The kingdom of the Lord Jesus is governed by agapao or sacrificial love. Everywhere the Lord talks about love, He talks about the agapao love not about phileo which is love that is driven by either emotion or pleasure and is very momentary in nature. That is why Jesus said in John 15:13 'Greater love has no one than this that he lay down his life for his friends.' So when the Bible speaks of love it is always sacrificial love which is permanent in nature.

Now here is what walking in agapao means according to the words of Jesus. John 15:9-12 'As the Father has loved Me so have I loved you. Now remain in My love. If you obey My commands, you will remain in My love just as I have obeyed My Father's commands and remain in His love. I have told you this so that My joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this love each other as I have loved you.' The Greek word used for the word 'remain' is to 'dwell in' which means daily live in it. This is same as walking in it. It is a daily activity. So to live in His love you first need to obey His commands. So my friends if you are to walk in love firstly it requires you to obey the Lord's commands. What are His commands? Everything that is written in the Bible because it is our **Basic Instruction Before Leaving Earth**.

When we walk in obedience to Him we walk in love and as a result of that we love each other. 1 John 5:2 explains this perfectly 'This is how we know that we love the children of God, by loving God and carrying out His commands.' Yes we first need to obey the commands of the Lord and live by it and do what the Lord has instructed us to do, then that is true love. When we are living by the commands of God our lives too will naturally be guided by then as well. So when a person calls at 2 in the morning and asks for prayer you get up and answer and pray like that need is your very own. When a person is without money, food or unable to meet certain commitments your heart will not rest till you help that person out. In the same way, when a person needs to be corrected in order to save his soul from hell, you correct that person. Now

would you like to go hell? If your answer is no then if you love your neighbour as yourself, should you not do anything and everything possible to ensure that person goes to heaven. If that person is living in sin and either does not realise it as sin or stubbornly continues to sin, the Lord commands us to speak the truth to save souls from hell.

So my friends walking in love is not a loose term. It carries a lot of spiritual substance and great responsibility. So do not treat it lightly as some people do thinking that walking love means just hugging people in church, talking sweet words and not tell anything negative to anyone just keep saying God loves you. This is phileo love. But the love that the Lord wants us to show is one that is governed by action not mere words. This starts with obedience and ends with showing it in action in the form of the 12 commands for being a Christian in public which I have detailed earlier in this chapter.

II. TEMPTATIONS AND TRIALS

With this chapter we complete the 7 ingredients required for a powerful prayer life with the 7th ingredient.

Ingredient No 7 – And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one

The Hebrew language is such a wonderful language as it is so descriptive in nature. It has a word for every message or meaning that has to be conveyed. The English language however is limited in scope and we have to use one word to convey different meaning for a given context.

The Hebrew word here used for temptation in the Lord 's Prayer is peirasmos which is defined as putting to the test or to make trial of someone but not for the purpose of causing a person to fall or sin. Now to denote temptation which makes a person sin or discover evil the Hebrew language word used is peirazo. This word peirazo is found in the scripture portions which speak of the temptation of the Lord Jesus by satan (Luke 4:2 'where for forty days he was tempted by the devil').

Now what does the Lord mean by telling us to pray this way. John 16:33 says 'I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart I have overcome the world.' Yes my people life is not going to be a bed of roses as Jesus said 'Make every effort to enter through the narrow way' (Luke 13:23). Why because the Lord wants a group of people who will be overcomers in His kingdom (Revelation 3:5, Revelation 3:21). So in short our faith will be tested. 2 Timothy 4:7 and 8 says 'I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me a crown of righteousness.' When our faith is tested and we overcome all through Christ and when we complete the race we can boldly stand before the Father and say We have kept the faith and the Lord Jesus will stand witness to that. Keeping the faith through any situation any circumstance that is what the Lord wants from us. We maybe in the mountain or in the valley but we still KEEP THE FAITH.

Why would the Lord want to test our faith?

1) James 1:1-4 - 'Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials

of many kinds because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be **mature and complete, not lacking anything.** It makes you a mature and complete child of God.

- 2) James 1:12 – 'Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the **crown of life that God has promised to those who love him**
- 3) 1 Peter 1:6-7 'In this you greatly rejoice though now for a little grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith – greater than gold which perishes even though refined by fire – may be **proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honour when Jesus is revealed.**' Amen you will be caught up when Jesus comes again (Rapture).

So people of God, a trial or a test of your faith would come at given points in your life to fulfil the above 3 objectives. Now the most important thing to note is that your life is not going to be 100% trial filled or always full of tests. I preached a sermon in our services called 'when I come to the River of Jordan what will I do'. In this sermon I brought examples of people in the Bible who had a choice to make when they came to the banks of Jordan and the choice they made forever changed their life. For example Abraham and Lot came down to the River, Lot chose the lovely looking place overlooking Sodom and Gomorrah whilst Abraham took a dreary looking dry expanse of land. But though it was dry now, that was the Promised Land, the land flowing with milk and honey. Abraham put His faith in the covenant promise of God in all situations and made his life decisions based on it. Now the thing that I want to point out importantly here is that your entire life is not going to be full of tests. God will bring you to certain situations and circumstances and take you **through it. You will not be kept there forever being tested and tried.** Job went through a trial and came out blessed more than what he previously was (Job 42:12). The children of Israel upon leaving Egypt went through the wilderness experience because He needed to show them whom they should depend on and then He brought them out. Jesus was tempted of the devil for 40 days and nights and then it was over. So don't think your entire life will be full of trials. If that is the case then you are under a spirit of bondage and you are not an overcomer who keeps the faith.

So my dear child of God, today you might be facing a challenging circumstance in your life. It may seem like a great big mountain but Jesus said if you have faith you tell it to move it will move (Matthew 17:20-21). That is what God is trying to achieve through the testing of your faith, that you will

walk in faith for anything and everything in your life depending on the Lord for everything even the little things in your life. You will always seek the Blessor not the blessing. So my child keep the faith during this time of challenge and persevere to overcome through prayer and the word of God. When you fight the good fight behold there is abundant blessing here on earth both spiritually and materially and more important than that, a crown awaits you in Heaven. Hallelujah Praise the Lord.

Now why did the Lord tell us to pray saying not to lead into temptation? People of God, after you have instilled the 6 ingredients into your spirit man; and when you have come to the 7th ingredient; the expectation is that you will now be a Spirit Led person and would have your flesh under control. In this level of spirituality the Lord expects the following from you.

Psalm 18:28-40 – 'You O Lord keep my lamp burning; my God turns my darkness into light. With Your help I can advance against a troop, with my God I can scale a wall. As for God His way is perfect, the word of the Lord is flawless. He is a shield for all who take refuge in Him. For who is God besides the Lord? And who is the Rock except our God? It is God who arms me with strength and makes my way perfect. He makes my feet like the feet of a deer; He enables me to stand on the heights. He trains my hands for battle; my arms can bend a bow of bronze. You give me Your shield of victory, and Your right hand sustains me; You stoop down to make me great. You broaden the path beneath me, so that my ankles do not turn. I pursued my enemies and overtook them; I did not turn back till they were destroyed. I crushed them so that they could not rise; they fell beneath my feet. You armed me with strength for battle You made my adversaries bow at my feet. You made my enemies turn their backs in flight, and I destroyed my foes.'

I hope you read the entire scripture portion above slowly and nicely. What does it sound like to you? To me it sounds like a man who is so confident, so sure, so certain and in no doubt whatsoever that with his God he can do anything and everything. Look at the last line 'I destroyed my foes'. The devil is decimated. Yes my Friend, the 7th Ingredient for a powerful prayer life is GREAT FAITH where your total dependence, reliance and source is the Lord for all things both great and small. You will look to the rain clouds and say don't rain because you have the faith that God will answer your prayer and the Lord acts. You will look at the devil and say be gone and he runs in shame. Yes, the Lord Jesus is saying you should come to that position to be able to say any test that the Lord sends across I will pass because I know the Lord is God and in Him I put my total trust and I know He will make all things perfect in His

time. It is a position where the Lord does not need to test you anymore because HE HIMSELF IS A THOUSAND PERCENT SURE THAT YOU ARE FAITHFUL. Job faced a big test and He passed and He was never tested again. Yes when you have that faith you can tell nature what to do through the power of the Lord Jesus and it will listen to you. People of God when you have these 7 ingredients inside you and you sit down to pray; your prayer will shake heaven and earth. The Lord will release His angels to go into action on this earth to fulfil specific tasks for this the last days. You can pray for a nation and for revival there and the Lord will send forth His angels to stir the hearts of people towards Him. Why does the Lord need us to pray for Him to act? Because all matters in the spiritual world work on a prayer of faith (Matthew 16:19). That is why a Christian on his or her knees in prayer is indeed a weapon of mass destruction (James 5:16). The devil trembles when prayers that shake heaven and earth are released from the lips of God's people.

Yes my friend what a powerful teaching the Lord imparted that day when HE taught us to pray. This is no ordinary prayer that has to be repeated like a poem daily. It is a powerful message that carried deep spiritual meaning for us to become warriors for Christ.

12.

PRAYING FOR HEALING

James 5:15 'and the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise Him up'

People of God, you might be in the ministry and wanting to have a healing ministry. The gift of healing is a gift from the Holy Spirit but for that healing gift to manifest through you; you need faith. What does that mean? People of God even as you pray for healing for a person you should have faith in your heart that the Lord will heal. Many people when praying for healing pray with a little doubt as to whether the Lord will heal and we keep telling the person we are praying so have faith. It is true that the person who wants healing needs to have faith, but the servant of God who is praying needs to have greater faith and have the confidence and assurance that when I pray God will heal. In Acts 3:6-7 Peter and John went to the temple and there was a man who was crippled from birth. This crippled man looked at them expecting them to put some money as he was kept in the temple gate to beg. But Peter looked at him and said 'silver or gold I do not have but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk'. Then Peter took the man by the right hand and helped him up and instantly he was healed. See the confidence that Peter had when he commanded that man to get up and the sureness he had within him when he took the crippled man by the hand and lifted him up. He was so sure that the Lord will heal that man. That cripple did not have any faith in God. He was sitting there to beg and was hoping that Peter would drop a few coins. But the faith of Peter brought healing to that man that day. The declaration in faith to walk in the name of the Lord Jesus brought healing to that man.

A very important point to note is that a prerequisite for a prayer offered in faith to be answered by the Lord is that it should come from the lips of a righteous person. James 5:16 says 'The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.' Yes you need to lead a holy life before you embark on ministry especially one that involves healing and deliverance or what happened to the seven sons of Sceva in Acts 19:14-16 could happen to you. These seven brothers tried to cast out an evil spirit and the man possessed with the evil spirit in turn overpowered the seven of them and gave them a good beating.

Yes my dear friend, when the Lord anoints you with the gift of healing for it to

be manifested you need to venture out in faith and like Peter in confidence tell that sickness to flee and the Lord will answer you from heaven. Everything in the spiritual realm operates on faith which is the confidence and certainty you have that the Lord will do it. So I hope you'll have learnt something vital for your ministry today and I pray that from today you will see the mighty power of the Lord working through you and healing all who come with sickness to your services.

13.

A PRAYER WARRIOR

Now my friends I have taught you in depth how to prepare yourselves for an effective prayer life where your prayer will shake the heavens and the earth. Now God has called a select few both men and women to take His gospel out to the world and preach and heal the sick in His name and cast out demons. Many of you might be members of a congregation who go for regular services conducted by these people God has called for His service. You might consider yourself a mere believer and there is nothing significant or prominent about your role as you are not in the forefront of spreading the gospel in such a public manner. I want to tell you do not think like that. You as a member of a ministry or a congregation have a vital part in the work of God. God does not believe in individualism, He always worked in teams. Jesus sent the 70, two by two. Similarly Paul travelled in companies of two or more sometimes with Barnabas other times with various people. In the same way in every church where Paul went as you read through all of Paul's letters and the Book of Acts you will see it is the church people who pray for him and release him into ministry. Yes my friends you as a believer are a vital force in the ministry being launched out into the world. Paul in Philippians 1:5 tells all the believers that they are partners in the ministry he does. Yes when you link yourself up with a ministry or a congregation you are in partnership with that servant of God in the work the Lord has assigned them. Now this partnership is not only in the giving of your offerings. That is just a part of it. The most important part of it is prayer.

Ephesians 6:19-20 'Pray also for me that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare fearlessly as I should.' With your prayer you cover the servant of God and send him or her out because we are in war with a devil who does not like being defeated. Yes we are in war with a real devil who is intent on stopping the work of the Lord. But he cannot stop the work of the Lord. As long as the servant of God is a true servant of God and is full of prayer and power and very importantly backed by a faithful team that is in prayer to launch them out in ministry, satan is defeated every time. So my friends even as you are a part of a congregation of believers, do not think you do not have part in the ministry of

spreading the gospel. Your prayer for those who go out in the name of the Lord is so important as it breaks the power of all the principalities and powers and evil spirits that govern that area. You are a warrior in the army of the Lord. You might not be in the forefront of the battlefield but remember the important role that archers played in battle in the ancient days. They from far shot their arrows which basically destroyed the front line of the enemy armies. After the archers have done their job, then the commander sounds the trumpet to send in the cavalry and the foot soldiers with their swords into battle. If the archers do not prepare the way by weakening the enemy the rest of the army cannot win the war. In the same way with your prayer just like the archers you break open the enemy army and then you pave the way for the servants of God to go out into the battle field and finish the job for God. That is how powerful your role as prayer partner is. You are a prophet of prayer who breaks down strongholds and prepares the way for the Lord. When we think of Prophets and Prophetesses we immediately picture someone like Elijah, Elisha or Isaiah prophesying about the future, working miracles and doing wonders in the name of the Lord. However that is one of many ministerial roles of a prophet. The Lord raises up prophets and prophetesses to fulfil specific roles at certain period of times.

Luke 2:36-38 'There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, and then was a widow until she was eighty four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.'

Anna was one such prophetess. She did not work great miracles or preach great sermons or prophecy about the future. She was called upon to worship, fast and pray day and night. Yes the Lord has a set of prophets called to just sit and pray. Now they are not called to pray for minor things but just like Anna who was praying for the coming of the Messiah, the Lord calls prophets to pray for affairs of the world, affairs of the church and more specifically pray earnestly and with burden for the coming of the Lord. Yes, this is called a prophetic prayer. Anna prayed and prayed for the arrival of the Messiah. In the same way in these last days the Lord is raising up many Anna like prophets who are hidden from public eye but they pray night and day about the coming of the Lord and the preparation of the body of Christ and the world for His return. If we want to know about the 2nd coming of the Lord we must study in depth the 1st advent of our Master. It has many hidden messages that provide

us with valuable information as to how the 2nd advent of our Master would be. Why does the Lord need prophets praying like described above? Proverbs 15:8 says 'but the prayer of the upright pleases Him'. Proverbs 15:29 says 'He hears the prayer of the righteous'. James 5:16-17 'The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and half years. Again he prayed and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.' People of God, Elijah prayed and nature listened to Him. Like it is said in the word of God, the prayer of a righteous man or woman of God is powerful and brings about change in both the spiritual and physical world. Hence the Lord has called unto Himself a company of prophets who are hidden but are called to daily worship, fast and pray. Why I am writing about this is because the Lord may have called you for His service and all you do is pray and pray and through your prayers you notice mighty things happening but you do not get the publicity like other servants of God get. You are wondering why don't I get to do public rallies and crusades and have a TV ministry and so on. My dear friend that is because you have been called as praying prophet to worship, fast and pray for the nations, for the churches and war with the principalities and power in the air through prayer to bring revival to cities and towns. Yes, that is a powerful ministry that you do on your knees daily and for that the Lord has a special reward for you. So, my friend if that is your calling do it with zeal and a burning desire to see the 2nd coming of the Lord soon. Maranatha! Come quickly Lord Jesus.

14.

IMPORTANT PRAYER POINTS

Finally, beloved a few points to close. Can it be said of your home that it is a house of prayer? Prayer is power. A family that prays together stays together. This is a statement made by a dear man of God and it is so 100% true. Yes, my friend prayer builds communion with the Lord and brings His presence into your home. Romans 14:17 says 'for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.' When the Holy Spirit walks in with the presence of the Lord righteousness, peace and joy fills your home. Yes, today in many homes you see unkindness, absence of love, strife, division, sadness, anger and all. This is not God's plan for your home. With Him comes abundance of blessings. But you have to make your home a good soil to receive what the Lord has in store for you. This good soil you can develop only by ensuring that your home is a house of prayer. Now you might be the only believer in your home. However, this should not stop you from praying as proxy for your family daily that the presence of the Lord comes into your home and touches all those living there. If the whole family are believers then family prayer is mandatory and should not be cancelled for any reason whatsoever. When your home becomes a house of prayer it naturally becomes a pleasing abode for the Holy Spirit to walk in with the blessings of the Father.

Another important thing is praying for your nation and its leaders. Jeremiah 29:7 says 'Also seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it because if it prospers you too will prosper.' You have been placed in this country with a purpose. Hence when it prospers economically and politically you too will be able to lead a prosperous and quiet life. So it is a responsibility which has been given to us from God to pray that the Lord will deliver our beloved country from the clutches of satan. Matthew 18:19 says 'Again I tell you if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for it will be done for you by My Father in heaven.' God hears prayers when His own pray unto Him. But do we really pray with burden, with tears and with a broken heart for our nation? Ezekiel 22:30 says 'I looked for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it but I found none.' The Lord is telling this about us. He is looking for someone who will cry out to Him shouting judge me if you want, but have

mercy on this nation Lord. He wants someone to be a wall which will stand between the Lord and Sri Lanka. When you pray like that Psalm 51:17 says 'A broken and a contrite heart – these O God You will not despise.' He will hear you. He will answer you and have compassion on Sri Lanka. 2 Chronicles 7:14 says 'If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their hand.' Proverbs 11:11 says 'through the blessing of the upright a city is exalted.' Praying for the nation is very important and should be a daily part of our prayer life.

Next I wish to emphasize the importance of collective prayer. My friends are we are church that prays together or a church that plays together? Today prominence is given for special events, family camps, get-togethers, fellowships and many activities in the church. So today we are only a church that plays together. But the early church was a church that prayed together. In times of persecution what did the church do? They prayed. In Acts 12:12 it says many were gathered together praying when Peter was in prison. Because of their prayer a mighty miracle happened as an angel of the Lord came and freed Peter from prison. In Acts 4:24-31 here again they were praying together and it says in verse 31 'And when they had prayed the place where they were assembled together was shaken and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and they spoke the Word of God with boldness.' Yes because the church dedicated itself to prayer they saw mighty things in their life time. My friends we should bring back prayer into our churches and home cells. There is power in collective prayer. In Luke 9:28-29, the Lord took His inner circle of disciples, Peter, James and John and went up on the mountain to pray. When they prayed glory fell and the Lord was transfigured and Moses and Elijah appeared talking to the Lord. Yes you want glory to fall on your church then get together and pray. You want revelation get together and pray. Unfortunately even in the above account the 3 disciples fell asleep (Luke 9:32) and hence they could not get the revelation of what was happening. Since they did not comprehend what was happening Peter again opened his mouth and said something dumb (Luke 9:33). Yes when you do not commit and dedicate to prayer this is what happens. You do not have revelation so you do things in the flesh like Peter did when he made the statement saying that he wanted to build 3 tabernacles one for Jesus and another two for Moses and Elijah.

Yes today because servants of God move in their flesh and do things in their flesh, the gospel is not spreading as fast as it should in Sri Lanka. When you do things in the flesh you end up trying to entertain people in church resulting in no power and no deliverance for the people. So my friends only a church that

prays can impact the nation. So I want you my dear reader to be a catalyst for prayer in your church and home groups. Encourage, push and facilitate time for prayer where the entire congregation with one voice cries out to the Lord for His Holy Spirit and power and revival. When the early church did this the Bible says all were filled with the Holy Spirit. Yes when a church raises its voice up in prayer, all in the congregation will be filled with the Holy Spirit and that church will become a power packed place. So my friends let us be a church that prays together. When we pray together we will see the power of the Holy Spirit manifest forth in our churches and this in turn will impact the nation.

Beloved another important thing you must always remember. An earnest prayer prayed with compassion and love, the Lord answers. Lamentations 3:49-50 says 'My eyes flow and do not cease, without interruption, till the Lord from heaven looks down and sees.' When you pray with compassion in your heart this is shown in the physical by the tear drops that fall out of your eyes. Now I know some can shed crocodile tears or make believe tears but those you can easily distinguish. But when you truly pray for someone with your whole heart filled with compassion, firstly you will never give up praying even if you do not see immediate results and secondly the Lord from heaven does look down and sees your tears and He is moved to compassion.

Sometimes during the healing services we conduct, the Lord instructs us to call people in front and pray for them. At that moment when the Holy Spirit reveals the inner hurts, problems or even sickness of that person, the Holy Spirit Himself fills us with such great compassion that we pray our lungs and eyes out before the presence of the Lord and He immediately answers the need of that person. Similarly in the case of someone calling for prayer who is in a deep trouble we are filled with such compassion that we feel like it is our own trouble and we are led to pray and not cease until the Lord answers and delivers that person. The Holy Spirit seeks after a heart which will be open to be broken to bits and filled with compassion so that He could work miracles through that prayer. Psalm 51:17 says 'the sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God you will not despise.' Beloved prayer moves heaven and shakes the earth. So an earnest prayer prayed does bring great results. Ephesians 6:18 says 'Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints.'

My friends I want all you my dearly beloved children of God, when you pray for someone else pray like that problem or that sickness or anything that other person is going through is like your own problem. Secondly ask the Holy Spirit to fill you with the same compassion that Jesus had which moved the

Lord to do signs and wonders when He walked on this earth. Finally when you are filled with that compassion you will not have a heart to give up praying so persevere in prayer for all the people you are praying for because the Lord will answer your earnest prayer.

My dear friends, when a prayer comes from the depths of your heart and you cling to the Lord like you would cling to a piece of wood when your ship has sunk in the middle of the ocean; the Lord is moved with compassion. Psalm 118:5 'In my anguish I cried to the Lord and He answered by setting me free.' In Luke 7:36-50, a woman who had lived a sinful life washes the feet of the Lord with her tears and the Lord was deeply moved and He said your sins are forgiven and your faith has saved you; go in peace. In 1 Samuel 1:12-20 Hannah cried her heart out in prayer and she was blessed with a baby boy whom she named Samuel. When you pray to God with a sincere heart and genuinely seek the Lord with a repentant heart He will not turn His face away from you.

Next I wish to place before you in detail the role of prayer in preparation for ministry. Psalm 5:1-3 says 'Give ear to my words O Lord, consider my sighing. Listen to my cry for help, My King and my God for to You I pray. In the morning O Lord You hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before You and wait in expectation.' In the Psalm above, David cried out in anguish because his enemies were hitting him from all sides and persecuting him. Yes though David was anointed as King by Samuel at a young age he did not get the throne the next day. David was 30 years old when he became King whereas Samuel had anointed him when he was a young boy probably a teenager. For many years David had to live in hiding in the mountains and wilderness. During that time the Lord gave him an army of men and their families to oversee and they travelled from place to place and sometimes temporarily living with certain tribes of people and helped those people fight their battles also. But many times Saul sought to kill David. Further there were other enemy people at whose hands David and his men suffered great anguish and pain. What was the Lord doing in David's life? Is this how a future king should be treated? My friends the Lord was preparing David for the throne. He was preparing David to rule over many nations. Yes with the Lord there is always preparation and during that preparation period it is going to be like living in the wilderness and mountains. Yes life will be tough and challenging as the Lord will test you out to see if you're faithful. In all these situations not once did David reject God or want to go back on His calling. No in every situation David cried out to the Lord and clung onto Him. Yes my friends you may have a great calling but you can lose that calling quite easily if you do not do what David did. During that preparation period you should cling to the

Lord and cry out to Him only for your help. He will direct your paths and lead you through those situations. Hence prayer is an integral part of your preparation for ministry as well.

Acts 1:14 says 'they all joined together constantly in prayer along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus and with His brothers.' If you are in ministry or want to do ministry always remember prayer is a must. When the enemy attacks a servant of God, it is always the prayer life that he targets first. Why? Prayer keeps your spirit man in communion with the Lord and you become more spirit led than flesh led. When you are Spirit led, satan cannot harm you but when you are flesh led he can launch a direct attack on you. Now in Acts chapter 1 after the Lord Jesus had ascended into heaven, the disciples and all those who followed Jesus joined together constantly in prayer. Not once in a while, not once a month but constantly. Now Jesus told in Acts 1:4 & 8 'do not leave Jerusalem but wait for the gift My Father promised which you have heard Me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' 'But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth.'

Now the Lord had promised His disciples and followers the Holy Spirit, power and a great global ministry for each of them. Now the point to note is did these people just sit about and go about their daily work until the Holy Spirit came. Jesus told them to wait for the gift My Father promised. Whenever the Lord spoke about waiting, it never meant standing around looking up with your mouth open thinking when will it come? Nope that is not it. Isaiah 40:31 says they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength. It signifies being in the presence of the Lord and communing with Him. You wait on Him praising and worshipping and thanking the Lord. This is the preparation that is required for ministry. The late respected and beloved man of God, Brother DGS Dhinakaran was used mightily by the Lord but he always tells of the story of how for seven years he waited on the Lord to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Even after receiving it he still continued on in prayer and he tells us how he has been taken into heaven while in prayer and when his spirit returns it is like 5 in the morning. Yes prayer is powerful and is a prerequisite for ministry. Even my late father Brother Lancelot Daniels for 10 years he had to wait after he received the word of prophecy from Brother Dhinakaran in 1985 about the ministry. Wait he did my father and he did so in prayer and regular fasting and had to go through a fiery wilderness period of preparation after which Jesus Saviour Evangelical Ministry was born in 1994 and from there the ministry took off like an eagle and today we are blessed with what we have.

Beloved because the disciples and the others got together and waited on the Lord in prayer; in Acts 2:2-4 all of them were filled with the Holy Spirit. The Lord did not give them a specific day that the Holy Spirit would come. He just told them to wait for the gift. Jesus said in Acts 1:7 'it is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by His own authority.' If they had done nothing and were just waiting around going about their normal lives they would have missed the day of Pentecost. Because they were constantly in prayer as a group, when the day that the Lord had appointed as the day of Pentecost came (and it came unannounced) they were in prayer and ever ready to receive the gift. Unfortunately many people today want it to happen something like what is described below because waiting in prayer is not something they are willing to do. A trumpet sounded that day in the morning and a loud voice from heaven came saying today is the day of Pentecost and John had to run and call Peter who had gone fishing and Peter had to send a pigeon with a note (no mobile phones those days) to inform James who had gone on a vacation and Philip went in search of Matthew who had gone to the bank to put a deposit. Once all were contacted they came to the house and first they sat around gossiped about their lives. Then James led worship, John preached and then they prayed and were instantly filled and so they closed the service and Peter served everyone fish and chips. Well that is how people today conduct services. It is like an evening get together rather than a prayer service and so there is no Holy Spirit and no power. But the disciples and the others in Acts chapter 2; because they were all together in one place in prayer, when that day came unannounced they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and with power.

My friends I am not being sarcastic when I described the state of affairs in the body of Christ today. That is the sad state in Sri Lanka today. But if you want the power you need to wait on the Lord and prayer must be a cornerstone of your daily life. Yes my friend on the day of Pentecost all received power and Thomas came all the way to India with the gospel and the gospel even went to Africa and the rest of Asia and today it is all over the world because of these disciples and others who were filled with the Holy Spirit taking the gospel and travelling the world. So my friend, do not let anything take your prayer time away. Make sure daily you wait on the Lord and you will receive power just as the Lord has promised.

15.

ALL GLORY BELONGS TO HIM

Matthew 6:13 'For yours is the kingdom and the power the glory forever. Amen.'

My dearly beloved children of God, I know even as you read through this book the Holy Spirit would have ministered to you and poured His anointing upon you. Yes beloved the Lord wants to use you mightily in these the last days as spoken of in Joel 2:28-29. But it is our duty to make ourselves ready to be used by the Lord by obeying all His commands. As He promised in John 14:12 we will do greater works than what He did because He is with the Father and He has given us His Holy Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit that bestows power in our lives as said in Acts 1:8. So as you have learnt in this book prayer helps build that connection, communion and fellowship with the Holy Spirit. Furthermore, you daily become more Spirit led as the Holy Spirit deals with your flesh and as said 2 Corinthians 3:18 transforms you into the same image of the Lord. Yes, beloved we have such a wonderful and loving God who cares for us so much. But beloved as I conclude this book I want you to remember one very important thing. This is something my late father always use to emphasize on strongly and that is - Our ending must be greater than our beginning. We must always finish well no matter how good or bad we may have started. We must be able to say at the end of our life – I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith (2 Timothy 4:7). Paul says in Acts 20:24 'However I consider my life worth nothing to me if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me-the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace.'

The difference between Paul and Judas Iscariot is one started badly and ended greatly whilst the other started well and ended badly. Paul started as a persecutor of Christians but ended as its foremost ambassador in chains. Judas however started as an apostle but ended as the betrayer. Here in the portion of scripture above Paul is talking about finishing the race and completing the task the Lord has given Him. When Paul started off his life it was not very great. Though he was a devout Jew known as Saul, he persecuted Christians. Then the Lord appeared to him on the road to Damascus where he was going to persecute more Christians and there he received salvation. When Paul commenced his ministry it was tough. The very disciples did not accept him at first. Maybe out of fear because of his earlier reputation or maybe because

they were a bit astonished that God could change a man and start using him so powerfully so quickly. Paul was persecuted, beaten and imprisoned many times for the Lord. Yet he did not give it up. He wanted to complete the race by fulfilling his task and go to heaven for the grand standing ovation in heaven. Beloved many young servants of God start off very well with a bang. They attract large crowds. They get great fame and name amongst people, but half way through their ministry they lose the calling and the anointing. Why? They have taken their eyes off the Lord and it started to become more about themselves than the Lord. Thus they had either fallen morally or they are now focused solely on money and wealth. This is why Paul says 'I consider my life worth nothing to me' Yes my friend when you are serving the Lord it is not about you. It is about Him. Your whole aim in your ministry must be to fight the good fight, finish the race and keep the faith (2 Timothy 4:7). It should not be about making money, building a big ministry or getting global recognition. It is all about adding souls to the kingdom of God as Paul says through testifying to the gospel of God's grace.

Yes my friend, if you are in ministry your sole aim must be to finish the race and complete the task that God has given you. Many people just finish the race but they have not completed the task because somewhere down the line they gave into the desires of the flesh and got sidetracked from the task. So when they finish the race, they have lost the gift of eternal life and they end up where they shouldn't be – hell. So my friend we all have a life span preordained by God on this earth and He has assigned us each a divine task to fulfil. This task we must complete without seeking personal glory or personal well-being. We must focus our eyes on completing the task before us and finish the race in glory and like Elijah go up to heaven in chariots of fire.

Now for you to be able to finish well there is one important character you need to always retain in your life and in your ministry which I detail now. Beloved the Lord's prayer concludes by saying 'For yours is the kingdom and the power the glory forever'. Yes beloved all glory belongs to the Lord. It is by His grace we are what we are (1 Corinthians 15:10) and the ministry we do is because He has given it to us (John 3:27 'A man can receive nothing unless it has been given to him from Heaven.'). The power that works through us is His power (Romans 8:11) not ours. So beloved we have nothing to be proud of and no reason to be boastful of at any point in our life. All that we have and are, is because of Him as said in Romans 11:36 'For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things.' Hence my friends we must all do like what Peter states in the following portion of scripture -

1 Peter 5:5-6 'All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble. Humble

yourselves therefore under God's mighty hand, that He may lift you up in due time'

Now what does humility mean? The Greek word used here is tapeinosphrosyne. I hope your tongue did not get twisted trying to pronounce that. This word means a correct estimate of ourselves. What does this mean? Do not think highly of yourselves instead be like what Philippians 2:3-5 says 'Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interest of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus.' Being humble means 4 things essentially

- 1) Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit – do not do anything for personal glory or to gain fame or a name. Whatever you do, you should do it for the glory of the Lord and expansion of His kingdom.
- 2) Consider others better than yourselves – this does not mean to have an inferiority complex or think you are a doormat. Rather it signifies be respectful towards others. The first part of 1 Peter 5:5 says 'Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older.' 2 Timothy 2:24 says 'and the Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead he must be kind to everyone, able to teach not resentful. Those who oppose him he must gently instruct in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth.'
- 3) Look into the interests of others – I have spoken earlier about being a helpful person and a person who people, lean on rely on and look upon. Romans 14:19 says 'Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.' Be a person with empathy. Always looking at things from the other person point of view. My late Father always says never ever switch of the phone even if it is 2 in the morning we must answer the phone because though some wrong number calls may come there might be one very urgent call from a person in need whose call we cannot miss. So we should answer all the calls. Yes my dear friend looks at things from the perspective of others.
- 4) Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus – I think there is no need for any explanation here. You imitate the Lord Jesus in every aspect of your life – in walk and in your talk.

Being humble is the 4 qualities mentioned above which reside in your heart and in your attitude. When you put into action the above 4 qualities, then the Lord considers you humble and as He promised He will lift you up to highest high in due time. However if you allow pride in your heart then you are inviting destruction into your life as shown in the following scriptures.

Daniel 5:20 'but when his (Nebuchadnezzar) heart was lifted up and his spirit was hardened in pride, he was deposed from his kingly throne, and they took his glory from him.' Proverbs 18:12 says 'before his downfall a man's heart is proud, but humility comes before honour.' Proverbs: 11:2 says 'When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom.' Proverbs: 16:5 says 'The Lord detests all the proud of heart. Be sure of this: They will not go unpunished.' Proverbs 16:18 says 'Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.' Obadiah 1:3-4 says 'The pride of your heart has deceived you, you who live in the clefts of the rocks and make your home on the heights, you who say to yourself. Who can bring me down to the ground? Though you soar like the eagle and make your nest among the stars from there I will bring you down declares the Lord.'

So beloved I conclude this book by leaving with you this one very important verse in the Bible which is found in Matthew 18:3-4 where Jesus says the following

'Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

Beloved let us be like little children before our Heavenly Father always believing whatever He says, always trusting Him, always thanking Him and always as Paul says in 1 Corinthians 15:10 say to Him all these blessings I have received is because of Your grace and Your grace alone. So my friends remember this always - you must finish well. You must go in a chariot of fire to those ever loving arms that await you when you reach the gates of Heaven and you must enjoy His embrace for all eternity. Now let me pray for you and close this book.

'Dear Lord Jesus, I bring all my dear readers into Your loving throne of grace. Even as they have read this book I know you have filled them afresh with Your Spirit and poured out a new prophetic anointing on them and you are going to use them mightily in the days ahead. Lord I pray that You will give them a heart like a little child that they may always be humble before You Father so that you may lift them up even more and use them like you used Paul and Peter. I bless all of them in your Holy Name and may Your favour always rest with them now and until the day you call them to their eternal home. I thank you Lord Jesus for answering this prayer. Amen.'

Teach Me to Pray, Lord lays the foundation for a solid personal prayer life. This book will teach you many important spiritual truths about preparing yourself for prayer and the spiritual tools that are required to ensure the creation of solid foundation for a strong prayer life. This book has already been a blessing to thousands of people through its first release in 2014 and this is the 2nd reprint of it.

About the Ministry

Jesus Saviour Evangelical Ministries is a Christian evangelical ministry dedicated to spreading the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ to all parts of this our beloved nation Sri Lanka. We partner with all churches and all denominations in Sri Lanka and travel across Sri

Lanka preaching and teaching God's Word by conducting evangelical outreach healing deliverance services in many towns and villages in Sri Lanka. Our meetings in Colombo are held every 1st, 2nd & Last Saturdays of every month at the Bible House, 4th Floor Auditorium, 293 Galle Road, Colombo 3 at 10 am. We extend a warm welcome to you beloved to come for these meetings regularly on Saturday. You will be healed, delivered, anointed, spiritually fed and be blessed beyond measure by these meetings.

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