



Inner Growth - Prayer Life

Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.

Jeremiah 33:3

What is a prayer life? In Biblical terms, it is the life of a believer filled with prayer. A person who has received salvation through Jesus Christ, and loves the Lord, who desires to get to know Him, and speak with Him, will meet daily and often in prayer. A prayer life for a believer can be at any time, many times in a day, no matter how long or short, the purpose is to know the Creator who created you, through the Savior, who saved you, which is Jesus Christ, the Son of God, for those who have accepted Him.

Those who believe and expect to receive comforts from God must call upon him. Promises are given, not to do away, but to quicken and encourage prayer. These promises lead us to the gospel of Christ, and in that God has revealed truth to direct us, and peace to make us easy. In Job twenty-seven, verse ten, "Will he delight himself in the Almighty? Will he always call upon God?"

Those who call upon the Lord show forth their desire and dependence upon Him. The first encounter of someone calling upon the name of the Lord was in Genesis four, verse twenty-six. "And to Seth, to him also there was born a son; and he called his name Enos: then began men to call upon the name of the LORD." Under the encouragement of Enos, public prayer and worship began, where the calling upon or by the name refers to public

worship. However, the ungodly family of Cain developed and centered their lives around the secular arts and business, establishing a way of self-reliance. The family of Seth, in contrast, called "upon the name of the Lord" to express their dependence upon Him.

The two fundamentally different family groups from the Old Testament that are operating are the godly and the ungodly. Therefore, the godly ones are those who call upon God: the believers who pray daily to the Lord and eventually develop a prayer life. However, other godly people are described in the first part of Second Timothy three, verse five, "Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof." The power will come through the Almighty God, for those who have access, which only comes through the Son of God, that only comes through prayer, which develops in having a prayerful life.

"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved," as in Romans ten, verse thirteen. Today, many people experience this among family and friends, where some make contact only when in need. They do not even for a minute think about how life is treating you, but only want you to treat them with some help. How do you think God feels and reacts to His people who only call upon Him when in a crisis or a need? However, the true godly ones call upon Him daily and not only when they need something, but needing His presence to comfort them.

When someone calls to see how another person is going, and giving the time to listen to them can change or make a day for the person receiving that call. This connection will result in the receiver feeling appreciated, cared for, and know that they matter to others. God looks for the same response from His people. Not for only the call from them to simply show up out of nowhere because something is wrong and need Him to come to the rescue. God is not the delivery person or the mailman, but the Father that needs to be loved, honored, and have reverence.

Personal - Isaiah 41:10

Prayer is personal. Although some Christians have prayer partners and may quote Matthew

eighteen, verse nineteen, "Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven." However, this is right and relates to a need of God to do something in their lives that is crucial. Still, prayer is private, and it is up to the believer to pray to God to get to know Him and His will for the life we live.

The Son of God, Jesus Christ, spent time with His Father to pray, as in Mathew fourteen, verse twenty-three, " And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone." While on earth, Jesus often sought time to be alone with God. Time alone with God is essential to spiritual well-being. The lack of desire for solitary prayer to, and communion with the heavenly Father, is an unmistakable sign that our spiritual lives are in decline. When this happens, we must turn from all that offends the Lord and renew our commitment to seeking God and His grace for our daily lives. Prayer is personal because a prayer partner will not address God the same way as the other. Jesus did pray alone, and He was the Son of God. Therefore, all God's people should set time alone with God in prayer. A personal relationship can only develop or grow if there is communication and time alone together to get to know each other. However, in some relationships, there is a reduction in communication when one needs something from the other contact, while the other tries to meet, greet, and share some care time with them.

Relationship - Colossians 3:2

Prayer strengthens the relationship. Currently, there are some Christians who do not realize that their prayers will not be answered because of their weak connection with God. They only come to God or spend time with Him when they are in trouble, or in a terrible situation, or need Him to do something for them. Otherwise, they will never come to the Lord when everything is going well. However, if those believers did go to the Lord in prayer during the happy times, then when they need

God in a crisis, they can expect to receive the answer they were looking for.

Daniel in the Bible prayed to the Lord three times a day. "Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime," as in Daniel three, verse ten. Despite his position as the first president within the Kingdom of King Darius, he honored God by praying daily on three occasions throughout the day, giving thanks. God shewed Daniel a revealing secret in a night vision, and he responded with gratitude and blessed the God of heaven. Daniel needed to interpret something for the King, and he thanked God for it in verses twenty to twenty-three, of chapter two, in Daniel.

"Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his: And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding: He revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him. I thank thee, and praise thee, O thou God of my fathers, who hast given me wisdom and might, and hast made known unto me now what we desired of thee: for thou hast now made known unto us the king's matter."

Access - Ephesians 2:18

Prayer means access. Access to God the Father is done through Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit. "Access" means that we who have faith in Christ have the freedom and right to approach our heavenly Father with confidence that we will be accepted, loved, and welcomed. This access is gained through Christ: His shed blood on the cross and His heavenly intercession for all who come to Him. Access requires the Holy Spirit's help. The indwelling power of the Holy Spirit provides the opportunity to pray and call on God according to His will and purpose.

Daniel was put in the lion's den due to the promotion he received, and those other

jealous presidents and princes under him plotted to make an issue of his faithfulness to the law of his God. "And a stone was brought, and laid upon the mouth of the den," as in the beginning of Daniel six, verse seventeen. The den of lions was underground, with an opening at the top. A large flat stone was laid over the opening. Although Daniel had an excellent spirit, as in verse three of chapter six, it does not mean that there will be no trouble.

In verses nineteen through twenty-two, "Then the king arose very early in the morning, and went in haste unto the den of lions. And when he came to the den, he cried with a lamentable voice unto Daniel: and the king spake and said to Daniel, O Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions? Then said Daniel unto the king, O king, live forever. My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt."

"In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him, as in Ephesians three, verse twelve. Daniel's daily prayer to God, three times a day, giving thanks to the Lord, provided him the support needed as he was put in the lion's den. The best way to have a good night is to keep a good conscience. See the power of God over the fiercest creatures, and believe his power to restrain the roaring lion that goeth about continually seeking to devour. Daniel was kept perfectly safe because he believed in his God. Those who boldly and cheerfully trust in God to protect them in the way of duty shall always find him a present help.

Yield -Romans 6:16

Prayer means to surrender or give way. Yielding is an essential aspect of prayer and faith, where believers are called to trust in God's sovereignty and timing. However, giving time is essential to prayer. This means not only bedtime to pray, but primetime. That means the period when believers would use to do other things that they physically desire. This is the difference between those who receive great favor from God and those who

wait for it. Daniel prayed, and before he finished, the answer was on the way to deliver him.

"Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak," as in Matthew twenty-six, verse forty-one. To "watch and pray" is to look after ourselves and guard against the things that would oppose our spirit from connecting with God in prayer and having His favor. Jesus was with His disciples as they approached Gethsemane, "Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder," as in the latter part of Matthew twenty-six, verse thirty-six. Jesus was with His disciples and could have waited until later, but He yielded to pray to His Father.

Today, only Jesus Christ can restore us to the Father, and the prayer from the believer's part toward the Saviour is the means of doing it. It is not a matter of depending on our prayer but trusting God that he will come through for us. There is a hymn titled, "Have thine own way, Lord." The first part goes,
Have Thine own way, Lord, have Thine own way;

Thou art the Potter, I am the clay.
Mould me and make me, after Thy will,
While I am waiting, yielded and still.

The spirit is willing because our spirit is what connects with God in prayer. However, the flesh is what the devil uses to diffuse and to force us not to pray. This is where the battle is within. People want God to do something, but they do not want to spend time with Him. Sometimes, believers should take time and allow God to be with us and enjoy His presence.

Eyes/Ears - 2 Chronicles 7:15

God's eyes and ears are open to the prayers of His people. However, four conditions are required for believers, as in Second Chronicles seven, verse fourteen, "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." The believer who humbles themselves, prays, seeks, and turns will have their sins forgiven and healing in their life. First is to humble themselves. God's people must see their failures, manifest sorrow for

their sins, and renew their commitment to do God's will. Secondly, to pray. God's people must cry out to Him in desperation for mercy and must completely depend upon Him and trust Him for His intervention. The prayer must be earnest and sustained until God answers from heaven.

The third is to seek His face. God's people must diligently turn to God with a whole heart and long for His presence, not only trying to escape from adversity. The fourth is to turn from their wicked ways. God's people must genuinely repent by turning from specific sins and all forms of idolatry, renouncing conformity to the world, while drawing near to God for mercy, forgiveness, and cleansing. These four conditions must be met to receive God's fulfillment of forgiveness and healing.

"A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump," as in Galatians five, verse nine. The little things a person does can hold back what God has in store for them. A quarrel over a minor thing, taking something small that may seem unimportant, bothering somebody out of jealousy, and having no respect for someone for no reason. Simple things like these examples cannot make God move in the life of a believer.

Read - 2 Timothy 2:15

A believer can pray and use the scriptures. There is power in the Word because Jesus and the Word are one. Don't separate Him from the Word because He is the Word. We read the Word, and the Word reads us. What does this mean?

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God," as in John one, verse one. When we read the Word of God, we hear His voice in the scriptures because Jesus is talking. When we read the Word, we are looking for what He says about us. When the Word reads to us, we discover our faults and then ask forgiveness for sins. Many believers today still read the Bible in their minds. However, the importance of reading God's Word out so that the verses can be heard and feed our spirit! There may be someone among us in the house resting, and we should be respectful. However, when the opportunity presents itself to read the Word so

we can hear, and read it out so the enemy can hear it too!

In Capernaum, Jesus encounters a man possessed by an unclean spirit in the synagogue. Jesus rebukes the spirit, commanding it to be silent and come out of the man. The spirit obeys, and the people are amazed at Jesus' authority. Jesus did not whisper or read in mind, to cast the demon out, but with a voice that the demonic spirit would hear and obey. Otherwise, would the spirit be silent if the Son of God read in His mind or spoke softly?

Lifestyle- Matthew 26:40-41

Prayer life is a lifestyle. A lifestyle is a way of life. The actions, habits, and overall conduct in private and in public. There is a song that reminds a believer of a prayer life.

Jesus in the morning

Jesus in the evening

Every minute of the day, give me Jesus.

He's my reason for living

He's my source of survival

Every minute of the day, give me Jesus.

Through Jesus Christ, New Testament believers can pray freely to God. "Father, I come to you in the name of Jesus Christ."

Because through Him we have access to the Father.

Daniel lived a lifestyle of prayer. He prayed three times a day on his knees and gave thanks before God, as in chapter six, verse ten. Daniel's life of consistent prayer was recognized by King Darius, who made him the first president over the others because of an excellent spirit that was within him (which may occur by praying consistently over time). The other princes and presidents acknowledged and knew Daniel was a praying man.

However, Daniel did face a situation that would jeopardize his safety as he continued to pray three times a day. Although Daniel did all the righteous things, he still underwent trials and testing, which proves that believers will still go through suffering in this life.

Daniel was later put in the lion's den, and God shut the mouths of the lions so that they could not harm him. Before Daniel went into the lion's den, the king was fasting. Therefore, Daniel's praying even impacted King Darius to

fast. Later, justice was served for those who attempted to harm Daniel and were convicted and punished. All Daniel did was pray to God consistently three times a day, and God took care of him during that time.

Today, God's people are praying all over the world unto Him. However, are they approaching God in prayer the way Daniel does it? Most people address God as if He's a gofer, or have their bucket list ready of things they need from Him. All Daniel did was give thanks three times a day, and look what blessings he received without asking anything but showing gratitude. The difference is that people pray to God mostly for Him to do something, while others who love God pray for Him to manifest in their lives.

Intimate - 1 Corinthians 8:3

Prayer is intimate with God. However, this intimacy is private and spiritual, and neither sinful nor physical. When a person consistently prays and meets with God, that encounter will become stronger and spiritually charged because God's presence is resting there. Every sincere prayer that is prayed regularly and continually set aside for God releases something into the atmosphere. "And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints," as in Revelation five, verse eight. When a believer prays, the place where they meet with the Lord is filled with a spiritual scent, and no longer an ordinary spot. The place of prayer in secret with God begins to shine, not with physical light but with the glow of God's presence.

There is a chorus about praying fervently in a secret place titled, "Shut in with God."

Shut in with God
in a secret place;
There in the Spirit
beholding His face;
Gaining more Power
to run in the race,
I love to be
shut in with God.

In Acts four, verse thirteen, people could see that Peter and John had been with Jesus. If

people can see it on your face, spirits can certainly see it in your space. The presence not only rests on your body but also lingers in the areas where you have consistently hosted God. The secret place of intimacy where you pray regularly is like a lamp on a hill in the middle of a dark territory. Demons over a region can literally see that there is light coming from that room in that house. That place of intimacy with God is not safe ground for them.

Father - Matthew 6:6

Prayer life is to the Father. "But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly." Every child of God should have some place to be alone with God.

Unless such a place exists, secret prayer will not be long or consistently maintained. Jesus had His secret places, as in Matthew fourteen, verse twenty-three, "And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone." Secret prayer is especially important: in the morning, to commit our day to God; in the evening, to give Him thanks for His mercies; and in times when the Holy Spirit prompts us to pray.

Our Father promises to reward us openly with answered prayer, with His intimate presence, and with true honor for eternity. However, notice the approach in the morning, evening, and when the Holy Spirit may wake saints up in the middle of the night. Nothing was stated about problems or issues to bring up.

Remember, Daniel gave thanks three times a day. Not to say it is wrong to bring up circumstances we currently experience, but to do it as read and the examples given are the key to victory.

Every day - Matthew 6:11

Prayer life is every day. Life is to be lived one day at a time. There is a song, back in the day, for the little kids in Sunday school concerning prayer and reading God's Word.

Read your Bible, pray every day, pray every day, pray every day

Read your Bible, pray every day, and you'll grow, grow, grow.

And you'll grow, grow, grow.

And you'll grow, grow, grow.

Read your Bible, pray every day, and you'll grow, grow, grow.

As a believer continues to read and pray, they will experience spiritual growth and draw closer to God. Some days there will be challenges, but saints must realize that the enemy does not want them to pray because he knows what it can do to his plans for us: ruin them. More prayer is more fire on the devil and his demons. The Bible is the sword, and using it as a weapon is the words within that ignite the prayers and come back as fire to burn the evil plans of the evil one.

"And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand. And the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire of the altar, and cast it into the earth: and there were voices, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake, as in Revelation eight, verses three through five.

Live a Prayerful life so that life lives like a prayer. Most of us believe in prayer and know the difference it can make. There are things we frequently check, our phone, and other things that we deem significant. What we truly value shapes our schedules, habits, and priorities. Replace routine with expectation, distraction with desire, and discover the joy of meeting with the Father in prayer.

Prayer life begins with conviction. It comes from allowing God's Word to work inside our spirit. When Scripture begins to shape how we view reality, prayer changes from development to a life-line that no believer can do without.