

DIVINE KINGDOM BAPTIST MINISTRIES

MAMLAKAH

DAILY DEVOTIONAL • JANUARY 2025 ISSUE



PRAYER & REVIVAL

DR. IAN NDLOVU

FOREWORD



The January 2025 Edition of the Mamlakah Daily Devotional centers on prayer as a pivotal catalyst for spiritual awakening. A true spiritual awakening cannot occur without sincere prayers being offered to the Almighty God. Throughout His journey and ministry on earth, the Lord Jesus Christ dedicated His life to prayer. He maintained a profound connection with God the Father through genuine and heartfelt communications.

Luke 11 verse 1 reveals that John the Baptist, who served as the forerunner of the Lord Jesus Christ, was indeed a man of prayer. "Now it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, that one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray, **as John also taught his disciples.**" The instruction from John to his disciples on how to pray suggests that he maintained a robust and consistent prayer life.

Throughout His three-and-a-half years of ministry, the Lord Jesus participated in various forms of prayer. A consistent theme that characterized His prayers was His complete submission to God the Father. John 5 verse 19 declares: *"Then Jesus answered and said to them, "Most assuredly, I say*

say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner."

Prayer served as the fundamental avenue through which the Lord Jesus Christ maintained His connection with His heavenly Father. It is essential for us to imitate His example by dedicating ourselves to a life characterized by consistent prayer.

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[PhD – Management Studies – Finance; UNISA]

Wednesday 1 January 2025

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MAMLAKAH

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

JANUARY 2025 – DAILY DEVOTIONAL

THEME: PRAYER & REVIVAL

THEME SCRIPTURES:

23: Be glad then, you children of Zion, And o rejoice in the LORD your God; For He has given you the former rain faithfully, And He will cause the rain to come down for you— The former rain, And the latter rain in the first month. 24: The threshing floors shall be full of wheat, And the vats shall overflow with new wine and oil.

[Joel 2: 23-24]

Then the angel who talked with me answered and said to me, “Do you not know what these are?” And I said, “No, my lord.” 6: So, he answered and said to me: “This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: ‘Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,’ Says the LORD of hosts. 7: ‘Who are you, h O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you shall become a plain! And he shall bring forth the capstone With shouts of “Grace, grace to it!””

[Zechariah 4: 5-7]

Dr. Ian Ndlovu

**ALL SCRIPTURES ARE FROM THE NEW KING JAMES
VERSION [NKJV] UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED**

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PRAYER & REVIVAL



Theme: The necessity of prayer – Part 1

Now it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, that one of His disciples said to Him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.”
2: So, He said to them, “When you pray, say: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.

[Luke 11: 1-2]



Prayer stands as one of the most powerful spiritual instruments bestowed upon us by the Almighty God, enabling us to foster a continuous and steadfast fellowship with Him. According to John 4 verse 24, “God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” Since God in His original state is Spirit (pneuma in Greek or ruach in Hebrew), He expects us to engage Him spiritually. There are two primary means that exist on Earth that facilitate our interaction and fellowship with God.

The primary and most essential way to cultivate a

relationship with the Almighty God is through His inspired word, the Holy Bible. Jesus' encounter with the devil offers profound insights about the significance of the Holy Scriptures.

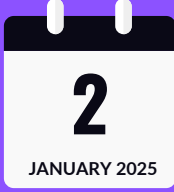
Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread." 4: But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God'" [Matthew 4: 3-4].

Similar to the Lord Jesus Christ, who walked the earth nearly 2,000 years ago, we conquer and counteract Satan's schemes by invoking the written word of God. The spoken and written words of God were compiled and canonized into a collection of 66 inspired books, which together form the Christian Holy Bible.

The second means by which we maintain fellowship with God is through prayer. *"Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, 2: as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him" [John 17: 1-2].* The Lord Jesus demonstrated His profound relationship with God the Father through His unwavering commitment to prayer.

Prayer: Almighty God, we express our deepest gratitude for guiding us to prioritize continuous fellowship with

You, achieved through dedicated Bible study and steadfast prayer. We are profoundly thankful for the exemplary model our Lord Jesus Christ provided through His unwavering commitment to maintaining a close relationship with You. In the most glorious name of Jesus, we fervently pray. Amen.



PRAYER & REVIVAL



Theme: The necessity of prayer – Part 2

Now it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, that one of His disciples said to Him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.”
2: So, He said to them, “When you pray, say: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come.

Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”

[Luke 11: 1-2]



One of the most significant segments of the Synoptic Gospels is the passage that depicts our Lord Jesus Christ in prayer to God the Father. Luke 11 verse 1 offers us seven compelling lessons regarding the Lord Jesus Christ and the nature of prayer.

1. It is evident that the Lord Jesus Christ often engaged in prayer in various locations throughout His ministry. For instance, according to Mark 1 verse 35, *“Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went*

out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed."

2. While we gather from Mark 1 verse 35 and various passages in the New Testament that the Lord Jesus often valued solitary prayer, He also engaged in prayer in the company of His close associates and disciples.
3. We observe that the Lord Jesus exemplified a sense of balance in His approach to prayer. He did not engage in endless petitions; rather, His prayers were characterized by a clear beginning and a definitive conclusion.
4. The manner in which the Lord Jesus prayed displayed unmistakable evidence of spiritual enlightenment, as evidenced by the reactions of His disciples upon the conclusion of His prayer.
5. Authentic and heartfelt prayer to God can indeed be imparted and learned.
6. John the Baptist, recognized as the forerunner of the Lord Jesus Christ, instructed his disciples in the art of prayer to God before the Lord Jesus himself provided guidance on the matter.
7. God desires for us to cultivate a deep yearning to understand the art of prayer. The Holy Spirit serves as our principal Teacher in this sacred practice, guiding us in our journey of fellowship with God [John 7: 37-39; John 14: 26; John 16: 12-14, and Romans 8: 14, 26-27].

Prayer: Dear Father God, we are truly grateful for the valuable lessons imparted to us through Luke 11, verse 1. We understand from your statement that both

solitary and communal prayers are entirely rooted in scripture [Matthew 6: 5-6; Luke 11: 1; Matthew 26: 36-46; Luke 22: 39-44 and Acts 4: 23-31]. In Jesus' powerful name. Amen.



PRAYER & REVIVAL



Theme: The necessity of prayer – Part 3

Now it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, that one of His disciples said to Him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.”
2: So, He said to them, “When you pray, say: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come.
Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

[Luke 11: 1-2]

In our previous lesson, we discovered that authentic prayer to the Almighty God is a skill that can indeed be cultivated. To deepen our understanding of prayer as a teachable spiritual practice, there are four essential questions we must explore.

1. Why is it necessary for prayer to be taught?
2. Who has a right to teach others about prayer?
3. How is prayer taught?
4. When must prayer be taught?

The primary aim of this lesson is to explore the fundamental question at hand. It is essential for everyone to be educated about prayer, as no individual possesses innate knowledge of how to engage in fellowship with God. According to Romans 3 verse 23, "*for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*" When God crafted Adam, He endowed him with an intrinsic ability and capacity to engage effortlessly with the Almighty. Adam's original innocence signified that he was enveloped in the glory of God. When an individual is cloaked in God's glory, communion with Him becomes both natural and effortless [Exodus 34: 28-35].

When God enveloped His prophet Moses in His divine glory, Moses was empowered to maintain fellowship with the LORD for a remarkable 40 days and 40 nights, during which he neither ate nor drank. The glory cloud of God sustained him throughout this entire duration. Similarly, many years later, the Lord Jesus Christ demonstrated the same ability to spend 40 days and 40 nights in the wilderness in God's presence without any effort. In the divine presence, time becomes irrelevant. The manner in which Apostle Peter spoke on the mountain during the transfiguration of the Lord Jesus illustrates that in God's presence, there exists an abundance of joy, along with profound peace and tranquility [Luke 9: 28-36].

Our inherent sinful nature often leads us to fall short of the glory of God. Consequently, it is essential for us to receive

guidance on how to pray and cultivate a meaningful fellowship with God the Father [Romans 8: 12-16].

Prayer: Almighty God, we express our heartfelt gratitude for imparting your wisdom regarding the power of prayer. As we deepen our understanding of this sacred practice, we affirm our commitment to maintain a continuous and effortless fellowship with You. In the glorious name of Jesus, we pray. Amen



PRAYER & REVIVAL



Theme: Who must teach us how to pray?

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

[Matthew 4: 1]

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

[John 14: 26]

The life and profoundly impactful ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ unveil three intriguing factors that contributed to His remarkable influence, despite the fact that He ministered for a mere three and a half years.

- The Lord Jesus Christ was, and continues to be, fully devoted to God the Father. From Matthew 4 verse 1, we understand that Jesus did not initiate the decision to venture into the wilderness. Rather, He was guided by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness to face temptation from the devil.

- In accordance with John 5 verse 19, the Lord Jesus has consistently endeavored to fulfill God's perfect will. "Then Jesus answered and said to them, "Most assuredly, **I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do;** for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner."
- The Lord Jesus dedicated Himself wholeheartedly to the mission and divine will of God the Father, even amidst periods of profound pain and suffering [Matthew 26: 36-42; Luke 22: 39-44; Luke 24: 44-49, and Philipians 2: 5-11].

The narrative of the Lord Jesus Christ serves as a profound illustration of the transformative power that occurs when we subordinate our human will to God. By doing so, we are bound to make a significant impact in our world and within our generation.

Prayer: Glorious Heavenly Father, we express our heartfelt gratitude for the profound lessons in submission and devotion to Your perfect will that we receive from the Lord Jesus Christ. Our hearts are resolutely committed to fulfilling Your divine purpose now and for all eternity. In the most cherished name of Jesus, we sincerely offer this prayer. Amen.



PRAYER & REVIVAL



Theme: The Holy Spirit is our Teacher – Part 1

Likewise, the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. 27: Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

[Romans 8: 26-27]

The book of Genesis, the first volume of the Holy Bible, reveals that the Spirit of God played an integral role in the creation of the universe. Genesis 1 verses 1-2 reveals that “in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2: The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. *And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.*” From the very beginning, we note that the Holy Spirit has been profoundly connected to the creative endeavors of God the Father.

The activities of the Holy Spirit extend far beyond creation. The New Testament underscores that the Holy Spirit serves as our Teacher. On the night of His betrayal and arrest, the Lord Jesus Christ assured the apostles that they would not be left to navigate their journey alone. *“If you love Me, keep My commandments. 16: And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever – 17: the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. 18: I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you”* [John 14: 16-18].

As born-again Christians, we do not face the world in solitude; instead, we are blessed with the presence of the Spirit of the Almighty God dwelling within us. As stated in John 14 verse 26, the Holy Spirit's primary mission is to teach us all things and to remind us of everything that the Lord Jesus imparted to us through the Holy Scriptures.

1 Corinthians 2 verses 9-16 explains that only the Holy Spirit possesses knowledge of God's intentions regarding our lives and our eternal destinies. Consequently, it is impossible to comprehend or access the magnificent plans that God has prepared for us without the involvement of the precious Spirit of God.

Prayer: Awesome and dear Heavenly Father God, we humbly salute You for bestowing upon us the precious gift of Your Spirit. We hold in high regard the blessing of

Your eternal and true Spirit. We earnestly petition You to grant us the magnificent grace to consistently cooperate with the remarkable works of the Holy Spirit in our lives. In the transformative and miracle-working name of our Lord Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.



PRAYER & REVIVAL



Theme: The Holy Spirit is our Teacher – Part 2

Likewise, the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. 27: Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

[Romans 8: 26-27]

According to Romans 8 verses 26-27, all believers, in their natural state, exhibit weakness when approaching God the Father. Our carnal strengths and capabilities can never improve our capacity to connect with the Almighty God. As stated in John 4 verse 24, God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must do so in spirit and in truth. Carnal notions cannot lead us closer to our heavenly Father. It is the hearts brimming with faith, strengthened by the Holy Spirit, that enable us to access the divine realm inhabited by God the Father, as highlighted in Isaiah 57 verse 15.

Romans 8 verse 26 illustrates that the Holy Spirit is unfazed by our weaknesses. As our ultimate Helper, the Holy Spirit is perpetually eager to support us in our times of prayer. But how does the Holy Spirit assist us practically whenever we are praying? Romans 8 verse 26b, answers the question in the following manner, *“For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.”* Not every situation necessitates that we articulate our needs before God. Some life situations require “groanings which cannot be uttered.” Inexpressible groanings represent unique spiritual expressions bestowed upon us by the Holy Spirit, enabling us to articulate profound spiritual and temporal needs before the Almighty God. These sounds serve as a means of fully communicating the depths of our hearts and souls in ways that words alone may fail to convey.

For example, we learn from Hebrews 5 verses 6-8:

As He says in another place: *“You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek”; 7: who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear, 8: though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.*

When the Lord Jesus Christ was on earth, He offered up “prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears” to God the Father. These prayers were inspired by the Holy

Spirit. As stated in Matthew 3, verses 13-17, the Lord Jesus did not initiate His divinely ordained mission on earth until He was baptized by John at the River Jordan, after which He was filled with the Holy Spirit by God the Father [Acts 10: 38].

Prayer: Our gracious heavenly Father God, we give you praise and honor for the life-changing ministry of the Holy Spirit. We are ready and willing students of your Spirit. Our hearts are fully expectant to mature in prayer because of the wonderful ministry of your Spirit in our lives. In the holy name of our eternal King Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.



PRAYER & REVIVAL



Theme: The Holy Spirit is our Teacher – Part 3

“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 13: However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. 14: He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.”

[John 16: 12-14]

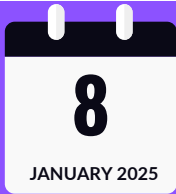


Throughout His earthly pilgrimage, the Lord Jesus refrained from disclosing all that He wished for His disciples to comprehend. The disciples' limited capacity to absorb and retain divine revelation constrained the Lord from imparting knowledge that could have profoundly enriched their lives, both spiritually and materially. The disparity between the life of abundance that God intends for us and our present existence is shaped by our ability to receive and preserve divine insights.

Spiritual sensitivity and receptivity serve as two essential keys to divine revelation and spiritual elevation. God has always aspired to utilize His born-again children. As long as we actively cooperate with the teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit in our lives, we can be assured of our spiritual growth and progress. Just as a human teacher cannot compel anyone to learn and grasp concepts, similarly, our divine Teacher, the Holy Spirit, requires our willingness and collaboration to effectively impart the will and counsel of God.

The art and practice of prayer encompass essential truths that we must understand with the guidance of the Holy Spirit. As we have explored in previous lessons, prayer serves as a spiritual tool and platform bestowed upon us by God for fellowship with Him. Without an active, vibrant, and fervent prayer life, our spiritual existence becomes ineffective. This highlights the necessity for Christians to be committed to prayer. The curriculum of the Holy Spirit is dictated by God the Father, and the Holy Spirit teaches us what He receives from God.

Prayer: Almighty Father, we present ourselves as willing vessels, prepared to receive wisdom and strength from Your Spirit. We humbly request that You grant us the receptiveness and sensitivity necessary to fully engage with the teaching ministry of Your Spirit in our lives. In the most honorable name of Jesus, we earnestly pray. Amen.



PRAYER & REVIVAL



Theme: The Holy Spirit is our Teacher – Part 4

“These things I have spoken to you while being present with you. 26: But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

[John 14: 25-26]

“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 13: However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. 14: He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.”

[John 16: 12-14]

When the Lord Jesus announced that the Holy Spirit would instruct us in **all things** following His outpouring, He was not alluding to trivial matters. Rather, His

reference was to all aspects concerning the divine purposes of God in our lives. The Holy Spirit's guidance is not required for learning those skills that we can acquire through natural means. For example, the Holy Spirit does not assist us with tasks such as cooking, cleaning our homes, or bathing, as these are ordinary and everyday activities that form part of our inherent human nature.

The mandate of the Holy Spirit is to unveil the entirety of truth to us. But what constitutes this truth? According to John 17 verse 17, the Word of God is the embodiment of truth. The Lord Jesus revealed that when we know the truth, "the truth shall make us free." The essence of divine truth is to grant us spiritual liberation. The most severe forms of bondage we encounter in life are fundamentally spiritual in nature. That is why when the Lord Jesus was given the scroll of the prophet Isaiah, He read from Isaiah 61 verses 1-2 the following words, *"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, Because the Lord has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound; 2: To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord."*

Hence, by embracing the words of God, we embark on a journey toward genuine and enduring freedom. Let it be our prayer that God bestows upon us the grace to accept, preserve, and integrate His truths into our daily lives.

Prayer: Great and magnificent Heavenly Father God, we express our heartfelt gratitude for sending Your Spirit to impart truth to us. We cherish the spiritual liberty You have granted us through the Holy Spirit. In the gracious name of our Lord Jesus Christ, we humbly offer this prayer. Amen.



PRAYER & REVIVAL



Theme: The unction of the Holy Spirit – Part 1

But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things. 21: I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and that no lie is of the truth.

[1 John 2: 20-21]

One of the most significant gifts bestowed by God the Father upon all who are born again is the Holy Spirit. The initial outpouring of the Holy Spirit took place in the first century, nearly 2000 years ago. This signifies that the Spirit of God has dwelt within the Church for almost two millennia. Consequently, a pertinent question arises: why was the Holy Spirit granted to the body of Christ by God? The answer to this crucial inquiry can be found in the following passages from the Bible.

- “For I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land. 25: Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall

be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols” [Ezekiel 36: 24-25]. This portion of Scripture speaks of the work of salvation that God accomplished in our lives by sending His only begotten Son Jesus Christ to teach us His way and to die for us at Calvary [John 3: 14-17].

- “I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27: I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them” [Ezekiel 36: 26-27]. This Old Testament prophecy through Ezekiel referred to the work of regeneration that was facilitated by the preaching of the gospel and the life-transforming work of the Holy Spirit [Romans 8: 1-27].
- “And it shall come to pass afterward That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions. 29: And also, on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days” [Joel 2: 28-29]. Joel’s prophecy was fulfilled in the first century on the day of Pentecost [Acts 2: 14-21]

The guidance, instruction, encouragement, and empowering ministry of the Holy Spirit serve as the cornerstone for every born-again Christian.

Prayer: We express our deep adoration, dear Heavenly Father. We magnify Your glorious and sacred name. We

are profoundly grateful for the empowerment You grant us through Your eternal and steadfast Spirit. Our hearts brim with hope and gratitude, thanks to Your benevolent Spirit that dwells within us. In the miracle-working name of Jesus, we earnestly pray. Amen



PRAYER & REVIVAL



Theme: The unction of the Holy Spirit – Part 2

But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things. 21: I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and that no lie is of the truth.

[1 John 2: 20-21]

In our previous lesson, we explored various Old Testament Scriptures that were fulfilled by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. It is encouraging to know that God never forgets His inspired words. When God speaks, it is as if the promise has already been realized. The following passages of Scripture clearly illustrate the truthfulness of God's word.

- Forever, O Lord, Your word is settled in heaven. [Psalm 119: 89]
- The word of the Lord came to me: "What do you see, Jeremiah?" "I see the branch of an almond tree," I replied. 12: The Lord said to me, "You have seen

correctly, for I am watching to see that my word is fulfilled.” [Jeremiah 1: 11-12, New International Version, NIV]

- Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. [Matthew 24: 35]

God operates in our lives through His inspired utterances. The Lord God undertakes no action outside the scope of His word. The anointing of the Holy Spirit links us to God's eternal plans, which have been disclosed in the Holy Scriptures. The Bible is a profound text that cannot be fully comprehended or applied to one's life without divine assistance.

According to the online Merriam-Webster¹ dictionary, the word unction means “the act of anointing as a rite of consecration or healing.” Therefore, the function of the Holy Spirit is intricately linked to the tangible and authentic presence of the Holy Spirit, manifested through His power, graces, anointing, and various abilities.

The function of the Holy Spirit is not something that we, as humans, can activate or deactivate at will. Only God the Father governs the activities of His Spirit throughout the universe. The bestowal of the Holy Spirit upon the body of Christ nearly 2000 years ago clearly illustrates God's readiness to guide and empower our lives in a supernatural manner.

¹ <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/unction>

Prayer: Gracious and compassionate Heavenly Father, we offer you our highest praise and honor, acknowledging your exalted position within the universe. We are deeply grateful for the guidance of your Spirit, a gift granted to us in accordance with the Holy Scriptures. With unwavering confidence in Christ, we believe that we will achieve remarkable feats in this season, empowered by the Holy Spirit. In the most precious name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.



PRAYER & REVIVAL



Theme: How is prayer taught?

“And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. 6: But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.”

[Matthew 6: 5-6]



In a study focused on prayer, one of the most significant questions is: how is prayer effectively taught? An examination of the ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ uncovers that He instructed His followers in prayer through two primary methods.

“Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. 36: Simon and his companions went to

look for him, 37: and when they found him, they exclaimed: “Everyone is looking for you!” [Mark 1: 35-37, NIV]

“One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.” [Luke 11: 1]

The two passages from the Bible referenced above illustrate that the Lord Jesus instructed His disciples by exemplifying a dedicated prayer life. From Mark 1 verse 35, we learn that on one occasion, the Lord Jesus rose early in the morning to pray in a secluded place. This highlights the importance He placed on spending quality quiet time with God the Father [Matthew 4: 1-11]. According to Luke 6 verse 12-13: *“it came to pass in those days that He went out to the mountain to pray and continued all night in prayer to God. 13: And when it was day, He called His disciples to Himself; and from them He chose twelve whom He also named apostles.”* Before the Lord Jesus chose the twelve apostles, He spent the whole “night in prayer to God.”

The Lord Jesus offered profound teachings on prayer through His discourses. For example, during the Sermon on the Mount, He instructed His disciples on the proper posture, attitude, style, and intentions that should guide our prayers [Matthew 6: 5-15]. As devoted followers of Jesus Christ, it is imperative that we consistently examine our motives, ensuring they remain untainted by the desires of the flesh.

Prayer: Dear gracious Heavenly Father God, We express our heartfelt gratitude for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, to Earth to enlighten us on the significance of prayer. We firmly believe that by surrendering our lives to your Spirit, we will wholly align ourselves with your exalted divine standards. In the beautiful name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.



PRAYER & REVIVAL



Theme: How is prayer taught? – Part 2

But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. 7: And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words.

[Matthew 6: 6-7]

It is understood that when the Lord Jesus shared what is commonly known as the Lord's Prayer, He did not intend for us to **recite** the words **verbatim** at all times. Simply repeating the Lord's Prayer does not ensure a more effective prayer life for anyone. Rather, the Lord's Prayer was given by our Savior to instruct us on the themes that hold significance in the eyes of God the Father.

If a simple recitation of the Lord's Prayer falls short of the true intention of our Lord Jesus, then how should we approach prayer in the face of everyday challenges? The

answer to this inquiry is revealed in the following two passages of the Holy Scriptures.

- “These things I have spoken to you while being present with you. 26: But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.” [John 14: 25-26]. The Holy Spirit has been given to us to teach us all spiritual things including how to pray.
- “14: For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God...26: Likewise, the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. 27: Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God. [Romans 8: 14; 26-27]

The Holy Spirit serves as our Guide in understanding the practical dimensions of prayer. He does not merely instruct us in the mechanics of prayer; He also imbues our prayer lives with power. The Spirit of God acts as our divine intercessor, advocating on our behalf. However, the intercessory ministry of the Holy Spirit requires our active participation. The Holy Spirit does not impose the act of praying upon anyone. It is essential for us to cultivate the spiritual discipline of regular prayer to the Almighty God. A steadfast prayer life, grounded in God’s Word, establishes a nurturing environment where the Holy Spirit can enlighten us about prayer while simultaneously enhancing our spiritual communication with God.

Prayer: Glorious Heavenly Father, we are profoundly grateful for the transformative power of the Holy Spirit's presence in our lives. We cherish the Holy Spirit, who not only empowers us but also directs our prayers with purpose. In the mighty name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.



PRAYER & REVIVAL



Theme: The frequency of prayer – Part 1

“Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart, 2: saying: “There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor regard man.

3: Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him, saying, ‘Get justice for me from my adversary.’ 4: And he would not for a while; but afterward he said within himself, ‘Though I do not fear God nor regard man, 5: yet because this widow troubles me I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.’”

[Luke 18: 1-5]

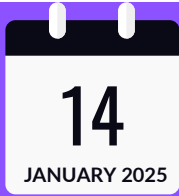
The objective of this lesson is to explore the question: when should prayer be taught? In our previous lesson, we established that our ultimate Teacher regarding the topic of prayer is our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Although the Lord Jesus is no longer physically present on Earth, having ascended to heaven in the first century, we, as Christians, do not anticipate His personal return to instruct us on how

to pray. Before His departure, He made a promise to bless us with the presence of the Father.

On the day He ascended to heaven, He said to His apostles, *“Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high”* [Luke 24: 49]. The understanding of prayer is influenced by our circumstances and individual spiritual needs. Moreover, our life situations play a significant role in determining both the frequency and the intensity with which we engage in prayer [Matthew 6: 5-15; Matthew 26: 36-42; Mark 1: 35-37 and Luke 22: 39-44].

The frequency and intensity with which the Lord Jesus prayed in Gethsemane illustrated the profound spiritual pressure He experienced during that pivotal moment in His life and ministry. Given that the Holy Spirit possesses complete knowledge, including an understanding of the deep things of God, He is fully equipped to comprehend all our life circumstances. This divine insight enables Him to guide us in praying with the appropriate frequency and intensity.

Prayer: Our magnificent heavenly Father, we express our heartfelt gratitude for the clarity that the Holy Spirit imparts us with as we submit to Him during our cherished moments of prayer. We eagerly anticipate our spiritual growth as we continue to yield to Your Spirit. In the holy name of Jesus, we humbly pray. Amen.



PRAYER & REVIVAL



Theme: The frequency of prayer – Part 2

“Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart, 2: saying: “There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor regard man.

3: Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him, saying, ‘Get justice for me from my adversary.’ 4: And he would not for a while; but afterward he said within himself, ‘Though I do not fear God nor regard man, 5: yet because this widow troubles me I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.’”

[Luke 18: 1-5]

The translations of 1 Thessalonians 5 verse 17 show us that God anticipates our engagement in prayer consistently and regularly throughout our lives.

- pray without ceasing [1 Thessalonians 5: 17, NKJV]
- Never stop praying. [1 Thessalonians 5: 17, New Living Translation, NLT]
- pray continually [1 Thessalonians 5: 17, NIV]

- pray at all times [1 Thessalonians 5: 17, Good News Translation, GNT].

The four translations of 1 Thessalonians 5 verse 17 quoted above encapsulate three fundamental aspects related to prayer in accordance with God's will.

- 1.The Almighty God expects prayer to be an integral part of our spiritual lifestyle
- 2.The Lord does not anticipate that any believer will cease their prayers. This implies that no circumstances, with the exception of death, can ever warrant the discontinuation of prayer as an integral part of a believer's lifestyle.
- 3.The commandment from God to engage in continual prayer signifies that He does not anticipate our withdrawal due to either doubt or the obstinacy of life's circumstances.

As Christians, we are summoned by the Almighty God to rise above our challenging circumstances as we dedicate ourselves to the journey of faith.

Prayer: Our beloved and cherished Father God, we sincerely express our heartfelt gratitude for the abundant grace you bestow upon our lives. We thank you for blessing us with the opportunity to pray regularly, guided and strengthened by the Holy Spirit. In the holy name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.



PRAYER & REVIVAL



Theme: The intensity of prayer [Abraham] – Part 1

Then the men left and went to a place where they could look down at Sodom, and Abraham went with them to send them on their way. 17: And the Lord said to himself, “I will not hide from Abraham what I am going to do. 18: His descendants will become a great and mighty nation, and through him I will bless all the nations. 19: I have chosen him in order that he may command his sons and his descendants to obey me and to do what is right and just. If they do, I will do everything for him that I have promised.

[Genesis 18: 16-19]



Genesis, chapter 18, captures an interesting divine encounter that the patriarch Abraham had when God and two of His angels visited his home. God and his angels had come all the way from heaven disguised as human beings that were traveling to a certain place who happened to be passing by Abraham’s tent-home. It is good that the Lord

had already equipped Abraham with the discernment of His Person and presence. The Lord inspired the writer of Hebrews 13 verse 2 to instruct us in the following manner: *"Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels."* We know that it is Abraham who entertained "strangers" who in fact were God and His two angels.

According to Amos 3 verse 7 *"the Lord God does nothing, unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets."* In alignment with the principle that divine revelation precedes divine action on Earth, the Almighty God revealed to Abraham His descent from heaven to assess the egregious sinfulness and moral decay of the twin cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. However, before enacting judgment, God provided a divine opportunity for Abraham to intercede on behalf of the two cities. The essence of Abraham's intercessory efforts is encapsulated in Genesis 18, verses 16-33. Abraham continued interceding for Sodom and Gomorrah until the final phase of his prayer that is captured in the verses below:

Abraham said, "Please don't be angry, Lord, and I will speak only once more. What if only ten are found?" He said, "I will not destroy it if there are ten." 33: After he had finished speaking with Abraham, the Lord went away, and Abraham returned home. [Genesis 18: 32-33, Good News Translation, GNT]

It became evident that the twin cities were home to only three righteous individuals: Lot and his two daughters. Consequently, God decided to annihilate the two cities [Genesis 19].

Prayer: Heavenly Father, we sincerely express our heartfelt gratitude for imparting to us the profound understanding of the power of prayer, supplication, and intercession. We yearn to deepen our practice of intercession and to pray with the same divine revelation that Abraham exemplified during his time on earth. We are truly thankful for the grace you have bestowed upon us, enabling us to intercede. In the blessed name of our Lord Jesus Christ, we humbly offer this prayer. Amen.



PRAYER & REVIVAL



Theme: The intensity of prayer [Hannah] – Part 2

Then Elkanah her husband said to her, “Hannah, why do you weep? Why do you not eat? And why is your heart grieved? Am I not better to you than ten sons?”

[1 Samuel 1: 8]

And she was in bitterness of soul and prayed to the Lord and wept in anguish. 11: Then she made a vow and said, “O Lord of hosts, if You will indeed look on the affliction of Your maidservant and remember me, and not forget Your maidservant, but will give Your maidservant a male child, then I will give him to the Lord all the days of his life, and no razor shall come upon his head.” 12: And it happened, as she continued praying before the Lord, that Eli watched her mouth. 13: Now Hannah spoke in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard.

Therefore, Eli thought she was drunk.

[1 Samuel 1: 10-13]

One of the most esteemed and anointed prayer warriors

of the Old Testament was Hannah, the wife of Elkanah, who belonged to the half-tribe of Ephraim. Hannah appears to have been the first or favored wife in a polygamous union. In contrast, her rival Peninnah bore at least four children, while Hannah remained childless due to her divinely ordained condition of barrenness [1 Samuel 1: 1-7]. Compounding her anguish, Peninnah relentlessly mocked Hannah for her unfortunate plight, further intensifying her suffering due to her inability to conceive.

Hannah had several options at her disposal.

1. She could have resigned herself to her unfortunate circumstances and entrusted everything to God for resolution [1 Samuel 3: 8-18, take note of verse 18].
2. Hannah could have easily bemoaned her circumstances and shed tears over her plight. However, unlike many who merely grumble about the challenges they face, she chose to earnestly pray to God, seeking a transformative change in her situation [Psalm 55: 22 and Philippians 4: 6-7].
3. Hannah might have exerted pressure on her husband to seek a resolution for her struggle with infertility and the yearning for motherhood [Genesis 30: 1-2].
4. Hannah might have chosen to wait for her husband, Elkanah, to beseech the Almighty God on her behalf, asking for her womb to be opened [Genesis 25: 21-28, compare with Romans 4: 17-22].

Upon the arrival of her family in Shiloh, Hannah resolved to take her fate into her own hands by earnestly seeking God

the Father through heartfelt prayers. In response to her fervent supplications, God, through Eli the priest, proclaimed a word of fruitfulness that ultimately manifested in her life [1 Samuel 1: 5-6, 8-18]. True and authentic faith before God is fundamentally action-oriented.

Prayer: Glorious Heavenly Father, we express our heartfelt gratitude for the exemplary model of prayer and perseverance that we find in Hannah, the mother of the prophet Samuel. Lord God, we earnestly pray for all born-again mothers and fathers to embody the same unwavering faith that Hannah demonstrated before You. In the mighty name of our Lord Jesus Christ, we proclaim these words. Amen.



PRAYER & REVIVAL



Theme: The intensity of prayer [Elijah] – Part 3

Then Elijah said to Ahab, “Go up, eat and drink; for there is the sound of abundance of rain.” 42: So, Ahab went up to eat and drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; then he bowed down on the ground, and put his face between his knees, 43: and said to his servant, “Go up now, look toward the sea.” So, he went up and looked, and said, “There is nothing.” And seven times he said, “Go again.” 44: Then it came to pass the seventh time, that he said, “There is a cloud, as small as a man’s hand, rising out of the sea!” So, he said, “Go up, say to Ahab, ‘ Prepare your chariot, and go down before the rain stops you.’”

[1 Kings 18: 41- 44]

Elijah stands out as one of the most compelling figures in the Bible. God appointed him as a prophet during an era of rampant apostasy in the nation of Israel. He was specifically chosen to carry out his prophetic ministry during the reign of the notorious Israelite king, Ahab. *In times of escalating wickedness within a city, region, nation, or community, the God of heaven raises dedicated prophetic intercessors. These individuals are tasked with combating the surge of evil*

through fervent and earnest prayers. "So, I sought for a man among them who would make a wall and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one" [Ezekiel 22: 30]. Elijah boldly took a stand during his time in Israel. God has bestowed upon us the same grace to stand up and be recognized in our own era for His glory.

James 5 verse 18 reveals that "*Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. 18: And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.*" The most essential lesson to consider is that God's prophet Elijah **was a human being like all of us**, grappling with the same weaknesses and vulnerabilities. However, in the realm of prayer, he was a fervent advocate before God. It is my heartfelt hope that God transforms anyone reading this article to embody the same passion, intensity, enthusiasm, and dedication to prayer as the prophet Elijah did. Our faith-driven prayers to God can serve as a powerful means for Him to alleviate the droughts and adversities affecting our lives, families, communities, nations, and even the entire world.

Prayer: Most gracious heavenly Father God, we wholeheartedly adore You. Holy Father, we express our deepest gratitude for empowering us to be formidable and exemplary intercessors. We cherish the shared burden to pray, a calling reminiscent of the one You bestowed upon Your prophet Elijah. In the magnificent name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.



PRAYER & REVIVAL



Theme: The intensity of prayer [Daniel] – Part 4

In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of the lineage of the Medes, who was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans— 2: in the first year of his reign I, Daniel, understood by the books the number of the years specified by the word of the Lord through Jeremiah the prophet, that He would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem. 3: Then I set my face toward the Lord God to make request by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes. 4: And I prayed to the Lord my God, and made confession, and said, “O Lord, great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and mercy with those who love Him, and with those who keep His commandments, 5: we have sinned and committed iniquity, we have done wickedly and rebelled, even by departing from Your precepts and Your judgments.

[Daniel 9: 1-5]

The prophet Daniel stands out as one of the most virtuous and devoted figures in the Old Testament. He is recognized

among the three Old Testament characters whom God Himself affirmed as having led a blameless and righteous life [Ezekiel 14: 14, 20-22, compare with Job 1: 6-12]. Righteousness, often symbolized as a breastplate, is a divine protection bestowed upon us by God to safeguard our spiritual core [Ephesians 6: 14]. Although Daniel led a life of moral integrity before the Lord, he fervently interceded for the people and the nation of Israel, approaching God as if he had himself committed sins against the Almighty [Daniel 6: 10-23]. When Daniel was cast into the lions' den due to jealousy and his unwavering commitment to prayer, he was miraculously rescued by God through an angel, for he was indeed blameless.

According to Daniel 9, verses 1-3, when Daniel comprehended the insights revealed through the sacred scriptures previously conveyed to the prophet Jeremiah, he set his face toward the Lord God *"to make request by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes."* Daniel did not adopt a passive stance upon recognizing that God's prophecy of restoration, after 70 years of Babylonian captivity, had come to pass. He earnestly sought the Almighty God with immense determination, even though the LORD was more than willing to fulfill His prior promise of restoration to the people of Israel. This serves as a profound lesson for us to be proactive in our prayers for the fulfillment of Holy Scriptures relevant to our time. Whenever we dedicate ourselves to prayer, supplications, and thanksgiving, the LORD God hears our cries and addresses both our spiritual and material needs.

Prayer: Gracious heavenly Father God, we appreciate such a wonderful example of committed, consistent, and conscientious intercession that we see in the life of the prophet Daniel. Even though Daniel was a senior palace advisor in at least three successive kingdoms, he found time to fellowship with You and pray for his people faithfully. In Jesus' mighty name, we pray. Amen.



PRAYER & REVIVAL



Theme:

The intensity of prayer [The Lord Jesus Christ] – Part 5

So also, Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but it was He who said to Him: “You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.” 6: As He also says in another place: “You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek”. 7: who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear, 8: though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.

[Hebrews 5: 5-8]



The only Person who is a perfect example of intercessory prayers is the Lord Jesus Christ. According to Romans 8 verse 34, *“who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.”* Currently, it is acknowledged that the Lord Jesus Christ, in His role as our

High Priest, intercedes daily on our behalf before God the Father. The profound selflessness of our Lord is exemplified through His willingness to sacrifice Himself on the cross at Calvary for our redemption [John 3: 14-17; John 15: 11-14 and Romans 5: 8].

The Lord Jesus Christ did not merely engage in prayer from a place of comfort. The Scriptures reveal that prior to the initiation of His ministry, Jesus devoted 40 days and nights in the wilderness, earnestly seeking the presence of God the Father. He chose not to retreat to a palace or a luxurious hotel for this important preparation. Instead, guided by the Holy Spirit, the Lord Jesus went into the wilderness to spend meaningful time with God the Father, as documented in Matthew 4 verses 1-11 and Luke 4 verses 1-14.

The intercessory ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ is vividly illustrated in Matthew 26 verses 36-42, Luke 22 verses 39-44, and John, chapter 17. According to Luke 22 verses 41-44, "He was withdrawn from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and prayed, 42: saying, *"Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not My will, but Yours, be done."* 43: *Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him.* 44: *And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. **Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.***" The prayers of the Lord Jesus at Gethsemane were so intense to such an extent that "His sweat became like great drops of blood falling to the

ground." This powerful imagery illustrates that God desires our unwavering commitment to prayer, ultimately for His glory.

Prayer: Almighty God, we sincerely appreciate the flawless and exemplary model of intercessory prayer that our Lord Jesus Christ exhibited at Gethsemane. We will seize the grace you have bestowed upon us to earnestly pray for the spiritual well-being of others, mirroring the devotion that the Lord demonstrated during His final days on earth. In the sacred name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.



PRAYER & REVIVAL



Theme:

The intensity of prayer [The Lord Jesus Christ] – Part 6

And the Lord said, “Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. 32: But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren.” 33: But he said to Him, “Lord, I am ready to go with You, both to prison and to death.” 34: Then He said, “I tell you, Peter, the rooster shall not crow this day before you will deny three times that you know Me.”
[Luke 22: 31-34]



During His time on Earth, the ministry of Lord Jesus Christ profoundly impacted hundreds of thousands of individuals who lived in that era. According to Matthew 4 verses 23-25, “*And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people. 24: Then His fame went throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all sick people who were*

afflicted with various diseases and torments, and those who were demon-possessed, epileptics, and paralytics; and He healed them. 25: Great multitudes followed Him—from Galilee, and from Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and beyond the Jordan." The spiritual life of the Lord Jesus profoundly impacted innumerable individuals during His brief three-and a-half-year ministry.

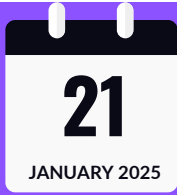
One of the most prominent beneficiaries of the remarkable ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ was His apostle, Simon Peter. The Bible chronicles at least two significant incidents in which Apostle Peter received immense support from the powerful intercessory and healing ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ.

- Now when Jesus had come into Peter's house, He saw his wife's mother lying sick with a fever. 15: So, He touched her hand, and the fever left her. And she arose and served them. [Matthew 8: 14-15]
- And the Lord said, "Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. 32: But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren." [Luke 22: 31-32]

Peter's mother-in-law was miraculously healed from a fever through the compassionate ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ. Peter himself endured temptation, thanks to the potent intercessory support of the Lord Jesus Christ. In a

similar manner, we firmly believe that we will prevail against all of Satan's nefarious attacks due to the strong intercessory and priestly ministry that surrounds us.

Prayer: Almighty God, we express our gratitude for the grace bestowed upon us, allowing us to be direct beneficiaries of the intercessory ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ. Like Peter before us, we hold steadfast in our belief that we shall endure all assaults from the devil, fortified by the intercessory and priestly ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ. In the mighty name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.



PRAYER & REVIVAL



Theme:

The intensity of prayer [The first century Church] – Part 7

When they were released, they went to their friends and reported what the chief priests and the elders had said to them. 24: And when they heard it, they lifted their voices together to God and said, “Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them.”

[Acts 4: 23-24, English Standard Version, ESV]

And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, 30: while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus.” 31: And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.

[Acts 4: 29-31, English Standard Version, ESV]



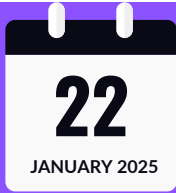
The first-century Church remained faithful to its prophetic and apostolic foundations. The Church was established on the Day of Pentecost, a pivotal moment that transformed the lives of the small group of men and women who previously gathered in the upper room for prayer and fellowship based on the Word of God [Acts 1: 12-15]. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit by the resurrected and glorified Lord Jesus Christ was truly revolutionary [Joel 2: 28-29]. This divine empowerment significantly enhanced the prayer lives of the early Christians, enabling them to engage in deeper communion with God.

According to Acts 2 verses 1-4 *"when the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2: And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3: Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. 4: And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance."* The outpouring of the Holy Spirit infused remarkable dynamism and strength into the spiritual lives of the apostles and early Christians in the first century.

Following the initial group of born-again believers in Christ, who were baptized in the Holy Spirit, they became a significant threat to the devil and his dominion of darkness. It was to be expected that the devil unleashed his worldly system to persecute these Spirit-filled Christians. However,

in the face of such adversity, the first-century Christians exhibited unwavering commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ and God the Father, as exemplified by their fervent prayer lives [Acts 4: 23-31].

Prayer: Awesome heavenly Father God, we express our heartfelt gratitude for the strength you provided to the first-century Christians through the baptism of the Holy Spirit. As the Holy Spirit empowers and guides us, we are assured that we will achieve remarkable feats for your eternal glory. In the magnificent name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.



PRAYER & REVIVAL



Theme: Petition Prayer – Part 1

In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. 10: Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven. 11: Give us this day our daily bread. 12: And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. 13: And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one.

[Matthew 6: 9-13]

One of the most significant forms of prayer that is presented in the Bible is petition prayer. But what exactly constitutes petition prayer? A petition prayer is a form of communication with God wherein individuals express their desires or needs, either for themselves or on behalf of others. When these requests are made on behalf of others, the prayer is appropriately termed intercessory prayer or intercession. As human beings, created by God with intelligence and a strong propensity to address the challenges that confront us, we are endowed with the ability to seek Divine assistance. For born-again

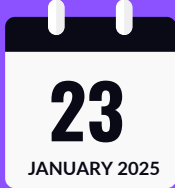
Christians, petition prayer provides a vital opportunity to seek answers to our questions or concerns, as well as to articulate our feelings of sorrow and contrition. These inquiries or concerns may encompass both spiritual and worldly matters.

The Lord's Prayer, as presented in Matthew 6 verses 9-13, encompasses several key petitions or needs:

1. **Hallowed by Your name:** This petition implores God to sanctify or exalt His name in the sight of humankind, as in heaven, all spiritual beings residing there already hold God's name in the utmost reverence [Isaiah 6: 1-7 and Revelation 4: 6-11].
2. **Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven:** The second petition expresses a heartfelt request for God to manifest His sovereign will on earth, just as it is executed and fulfilled in heaven. This prayer is destined to reach its complete fulfillment during the millennial reign of our Lord Jesus Christ alongside the Church, and it will ultimately be realized after the final judgment. [Matthew 25: 31-46 and Revelation 20].
3. **Give us this day our daily bread:** Nearly all humans require physical sustenance to survive. The adage 'man does not live on bread alone' illustrates that nearly every individual needs both bread and the guidance of God's word to sustain a fulfilling life.

Prayer: Awesome heavenly Father, we express our heartfelt gratitude for allowing us to come before You

in prayer with our needs, questions, and concerns. We offer You praise and honor for Your endless goodness. Your benevolence and grace in our lives inspire and strengthen our faith in You. In the mighty name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.



PRAYER & REVIVAL



Theme: Petition Prayer – Part 2

In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. 10: Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven. 11: Give us this day our daily bread. 12: And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. 13: And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one.

[Matthew 6: 9-13]

In our previous lesson, we explored the concept of the petition of prayer. We briefly outlined three significant petitions contained in the Lord's Prayer [Matthew 6: 9-11]. These petitions include the sanctification of God's name among humanity, the arrival of God's kingdom to implement His sovereign will on Earth, and the provision of our daily sustenance. The Holy Scriptures affirm that God desires to fulfill all of our legitimate needs as we strive to accomplish His purposes [Matthew 6: 25-34].

The objective of this lesson is to address the remaining requests made by the Lord Jesus in His model prayer.

4. Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors: As Christians we can not go anywhere with God without forgiveness. According to Isaiah 59 verses 1-2, “ Behold, the Lord’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; nor His ear heavy, that it cannot hear. 2: But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear.” Consequently, sin establishes a chasm between God and humanity. God regards sin with utmost seriousness, which underscores the necessity for us to recognize its gravity as well [Genesis 2: 15-17; Genesis 3: 17-19; Romans 3: 23; Romans 6: 23]. Seeking forgiveness is essential to ensure that our prayers reach God the Father with efficacy. Furthermore, we must also be prepared to extend forgiveness to others, allowing God to forgive us in return [Matthew 6: 14-15].

5. And do not lead us into temptation but deliver us from the evil one: The world we inhabit is fraught with profound temptations. These temptations serve as spiritual snares, leading individuals towards misbehavior, sin, or the disobedience of the unequivocal commandments of the Almighty God. Only God possesses the ability to shield us from these temptations or to provide us with the strength to overcome them [Luke 22: 31-32].

Prayer: Loving Heavenly Father God, we express our heartfelt gratitude for Your unwavering commitment to forgive us when we sincerely seek Your mercy. We

humbly ask for Your divine empowerment to help us triumph over all temptations that we may face. Our earnest desire is to lead a life that is morally pure and pleasing in Your sight. We wholeheartedly worship You, Almighty God. In the noble name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.



PRAYER & REVIVAL



Theme: Intercessory Prayer – Part 1

The people of the land have used oppressions, committed robbery, and mistreated the poor and needy; and they wrongfully oppress the stranger. 30: So, I sought for a man among them who would make a wall and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one. 31: Therefore, I have poured out My indignation on them; I have consumed them with the fire of My wrath; and I have recompensed their deeds on their own heads,” says the Lord God.
[Ezekiel 22: 29-31]

When God created the Earth in the beginning, He delegated humans to take care of and supervise it. According to Genesis 1 verses 27-28: *“So, God created man in His own image; in the image of God, He created him; male and female He created them. 28: Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”*

Therefore, humanity has divinely delegated authority to supervise, manage, and care for the earth. Our God given mandate is to supervise the planet and all other forms of life that exist on earth.

The dominion or delegated authority bestowed upon humanity by God at the inception of creation sheds light on why He does not directly manage affairs on Earth. This divine expectation encourages us to establish systems that govern life and societal conditions. Consequently, God cannot intervene in worldly matters without an invitation from the men and women who seek His assistance through prayer. This highlights the significance of intercessory prayer, which plays a vital role in preventing potential destruction stemming from a deficiency in divine knowledge and wisdom [Hosea 4: 6].

Intercessors serve as crucial catalysts and agents of divine intervention and revival on Earth. They undertake two primary responsibilities. First, they are spiritually endowed by God to confess the collective sins of entire communities, towns, cities, nations, regions, and even the world at large. Authentic intercessors do not seek public recognition or admiration from others; instead, they function in the privacy of prayer closets or secluded spaces [see Matthew 6: 5-7]. Second, through the fervent prayers of devoted intercessors, a pathway is created to facilitate God's intervention in human affairs. This enables the fulfillment of His perfect sovereign will.

Prayer: Almighty Father God, we express our heartfelt gratitude for raising committed intercessors among Christians. We are eternally thankful for your willingness to share the concerns of your heart with us, presenting them as burdens that inspire us to pray effectively for our leaders, communities, families, nations, and the entire world. In the powerful name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.



PRAYER & REVIVAL



Theme: Intercessory Prayer – Part 2

And the Lord said, “Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. 32 But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren.”

[Luke 22: 31-32]

Therefore, I exhort first of all, that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, 2: for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. 3:

For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, 4: who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

[1 Timothy 2: 1- 4]

The account of Saint Luke unequivocally illustrates that the Apostle Peter triumphed over his moment of temptation due to the intercession of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord's statements make it evident that, had He

not intervened on Peter's behalf, Peter would have faltered during his time of trial and spiritual sifting. As noted in Romans 8 verse 34, all born-again Christians are recipients of the powerful and perfect intercessory ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ.

As followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, it is evident that we are also summoned by God the Father to intercede on behalf of others. The individuals in our midst possess a myriad of diverse needs that can be classified into two primary categories: **spiritual needs** and **carnal or natural needs**. Recognizing from Genesis 1 verses 27-28 that God has granted humanity a measure of limited sovereignty, it is our responsibility to invite God to engage in human affairs through earnest, specific, and faith-driven prayers.

Prayer: Awesome and heavenly Father, we express our gratitude for the grace and privilege you grant us to pray for those around us. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we are dedicated to interceding for the needs of others. In the most blessed name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.



PRAYER & REVIVAL



Theme: Thanksgiving prayer

Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him and bless His name. 5 For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting, And His truth endures to all generations.

[Psalms 100: 4-5]

I will extol You, my God, O King. And I will bless Your name forever and ever. 2: Every day I will bless You, And I will praise Your name forever and ever. 3: Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised. And His greatness is unsearchable.

[Psalms 145: 1-3]



The predominant form of prayer within Christian communities is petitionary prayer. As human beings, we are inherently oriented towards seeking benefits. There are numerous necessities for our survival that originate externally: both biological and psychological systems come into play. We do not innately possess the resources

essential for our continued existence as a species. Rather, the planet we inhabit provides the requisite supplies for our physical and material well-being on earth.

Our incessant material demands can occasionally obscure or distort our judgment regarding our priorities as humans. It is vital to remain vigilant against placing our material needs above the genuine and pressing spiritual requirements of God's kingdom. There is great joy for God when we diligently strive towards the realization of His perfect will on earth.

In addition to laboring to fulfill God's purposes, our relationship with Him is significantly enriched through a heartfelt commitment to a lifestyle of thanksgiving. A spirit of ingratitude reflects an ungodly attitude of the heart. The Lord Jesus Christ demonstrated His gratitude to God the Father throughout His earthly journey [Luke 10: 21-22]. Therefore, we must strive to emulate Him by nurturing a lifestyle of thanksgiving toward God the Father for the myriad blessings He bestows upon us daily [Psalm 68: 19-21].

Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father God, we express our profound gratitude for the precious gift of life. Additionally, we thank You for our salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. We are immensely thankful for the promise of eternal life. We humbly offer this prayer in the gracious name of Jesus. Amen.



PRAYER & REVIVAL



Theme: United Prayer – Part 1

When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all in one accord in one place. 2: And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3: Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. 4: And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

[Acts 2: 1-4]



United prayer serves as both a precursor to revival and a product of spiritual awakening. During genuine spiritual awakenings, those who place their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ experience a heightened motivation to come together in fellowship and offer their prayers to the Almighty God. Regardless of the challenges we face in our lives, our collective commitment to the Almighty remains unwavering.

On the Day of Pentecost, the Bible reveals that Christians were gathered in “one accord in one place.” Two or more believers are undoubtedly stronger when they are united. Unity serves as the cornerstone of our impact in God's work. When we come together to worship God, our spiritual growth is guaranteed by His divine promise. *“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! 2: It is like the precious oil upon the head, running down on the beard, the beard of Aaron, running down on the edge of his garments”* [Psalms 133: 1-2].

It is spiritually inconceivable for God to bestow His blessings upon individuals who are divided. Unity among the children of God holds immense power. When God's children come together in worship, there is a divine outpouring of a multitude and variety of spiritual gifts. All saints are enriched by the unique gifts bestowed upon different believers, which serve to advance the fulfillment of God's sovereign will and purpose in our lives.

Prayer: We express our heartfelt gratitude to You, Almighty God, for bestowing upon us the grace to come together as Christians in thanksgiving for our salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ. We are truly thankful for Your boundless and immeasurable love, which You have demonstrated through Him. In the mighty name of our Lord Jesus, we pray. Amen.



PRAYER & REVIVAL



Theme: United Prayer – Part 2

And being let go, they went to their own companions and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them. 24: So, when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord and said: “Lord, You are God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them, 25: who by the mouth of Your servant David have said: ‘Why did the nations rage, And the people plot vain things?

[Acts 4: 23-25]



God Almighty, in His infinite wisdom and omniscience, has decreed that none of His creatures or intelligences shall thrive in isolation. This truth was poignantly realized by the apostles of the Lord Jesus immediately following their baptism in the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost. Subsequently, as a direct consequence of their empowerment by the Holy Spirit, the devil instigated a severe persecution against the fledgling body of Christ. It was amidst these tumultuous circumstances that Peter

and John were apprehended and brought before the Jewish Sanhedrin for trial.

Following their release, the leaders of the first-century church sought out their companions—fellow Christians—to share the trials they had endured at the hands of the Jewish religious authorities. Notably, the members of the early church did not passively wait for God to intervene regarding their plight and the persecution faced by their spiritual leaders. Instead, they actively engaged in prayer and community support to address their circumstances. *The Bible reveals that “being let go, they went to their own companions and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them. 24: So, when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord and said: “Lord, You are God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them” [Acts 4: 23-24].*

We can conclude from the Word of God that the first-century church responded to the incarceration and subsequent release of their leaders by united prayer to Almighty God. This New Testament account of the apostles' and early Christians' exploits teaches us that passivity and spiritual lethargy are not viable options in our walk with God. We are called to entrust every challenge we face in life to the Almighty God through sincere and fervent prayers, in the powerful name of the Lord Jesus Christ. When we join together in prayer as Christians, the Lord has assured us in His Word that He

will fulfill all of our legitimate spiritual and earthly needs for His glory, as evidenced in [Matthew 7: 7-11; John 14: 13-14; and 1 John 5: 14-15].

Prayer: Almighty Heavenly Father, we express our heartfelt gratitude for your willingness to listen to and respond to our sincere prayers. We seek your grace to pray effectively and to offer prayers that are truly inspired by the Holy Spirit. In the gracious name of Jesus, we humbly pray. Amen.



PRAYER & REVIVAL



Theme: Warfare Prayer – Part 1

Suddenly, a hand touched me, which made me tremble on my knees and on the palms of my hands. 11: And he said to me, “O Daniel, man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak to you, and stand upright, for I have now been sent to you.” While he was speaking this word to me, I stood trembling.

[Daniel 10: 10-11]

Then he said to me, “Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words. 13: But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia. 14: Now I have come to make you understand what will happen to your people in the latter days, for the vision refers to many days yet to come.”

[Daniel 10: 12-14]

The Book of Daniel, although brief, stands out as one of the most captivating texts in the Old Testament. Authored by the prophet Daniel during his time in Babylon, it was composed under the rule of four principal monarchs: Nebuchadnezzar, Belshazzar, Darius the Mede, and Cyrus the Persian.² Consequently, Daniel's professional journey and spiritual ministry extended across three successive kingdoms. Notably, Daniel enjoyed a lengthy and impactful career within the royal palace, where he served as an advisor to various kings. A hallmark of Daniel's contributions was his remarkable divine insight and wisdom, as highlighted in Daniel 1 verses 17-21.

Daniel was indeed a fervent man of prayer. As highlighted in Daniel 2 verses 16-23, he and his three companions earnestly sought the mercies of the God of heaven in order to avoid perishing alongside the other wise men of ancient Babylon. God granted Daniel insight into the king's dream and its interpretation through a night vision. Consequently, Daniel was able to avert imminent death by means of prayer. Similarly, in Daniel chapters 9 and 10, he implored God for the restoration of the people of Israel to their homeland after 70 years of captivity. Clearly, God the Father responded to his plea, facilitating the return of the Israelites under the leadership of King Cyrus, as prophesied in Isaiah 45 verses 1-3.

² Some scholars believe that Darius was the same person as Cyrus [<https://wartburgproject.org/faqs/2024/02/cyrus-and-darius>]

Prayer: Gracious Father God, we express our heartfelt gratitude for instilling in Daniel and his companions the profound burden to intercede for the fulfillment of Your purposes in ancient Babylon. We are deeply appreciative that, through the Holy Spirit, You have bestowed upon us the same calling to manifest Your will on Earth through prayer. In the miraculous name of our Lord Jesus, we pray. Amen.



PRAYER & REVIVAL





Theme: Warfare Prayer – Part 2

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[Daniel 10: 12-14]



As human beings, we are not tasked with the direct confrontation of fallen angels. As born-again Christians, we inhabit humble physical bodies that are inherently unable to contend with the might of angelic spiritual entities. According to 2 Corinthians 10 verses 3-6:

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. 4: For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 5: casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, 6: and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.

As a prophet of God, Daniel possessed a profound understanding that the spiritual tools essential for extracting answers from the supernatural realm included diligent Bible study, prayer, and fasting. He recognized that in the context of God's kingdom, human reasoning could never replace the power of sincere, heartfelt prayer. This insight clarifies why Daniel remained steadfast in his prayers until the angelic messenger, delayed by the demonic prince of Persia, was ultimately liberated by Michael, the archangel.

Daniel 10 verses 1-14 imparts valuable lessons on the virtues of persistence, faithfulness, fervency, and commitment in prayer. The ministry of prayer and

intercession requires **strength** and **determination**, as highlighted in Luke 18 verses 1-8, which emphasizes that this calling is not for the faint-hearted. Indeed, persistence stands as a crucial element influencing the effectiveness of our prayers in the eyes of God.

Prayer: Awesome Father God, we express our heartfelt gratitude for imparting the significance of persistence in our ministry as intercessors. We are firmly convinced that, from this moment forward, we are empowered by the Holy Spirit to maintain unwavering dedication in our prayers. In the mighty name of our Lord Jesus, we humbly offer this prayer. Amen.



PRAYER & REVIVAL



Theme: Warfare Prayer – Part 3

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11: Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12: For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. 13: Therefore, take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. [Ephesians 6: 10-13]

Prayer, perceived as a divine calling from God, serves as a vital means for us to traverse the supernatural realm for four primary reasons:

1. We pray as a means of fellowship with God the Father. According to John 4 verses 22-24, God is seeking those who are prepared to worship Him in spirit and truth. As we grow in the ministry, we simultaneously grow in our fellowship with God the Father.

2. Prayer facilitates the meeting of our spiritual and natural needs by the Almighty God [Matthew 6: 9-13]. It is true that God knows our needs in advance. But He expects us to vocalize them to Him through genuine, faith-filled and heartfelt prayers.
3. Prayer has been given to us by God to avert spiritual and natural calamities that are associated with the anger of God. Ezekiel 22 verse 30 reveals God saying: *“So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one.”* God the Father is always seeking those who are prepared to stand in the gap for their communities, people, nation and generation so as to avert His anger.
4. Prayer empowers us to spiritually dislodge demonic principalities, powers, authorities, and spiritual hosts of wickedness residing in heavenly realms. The delay in the response to Daniel's prayer can be attributed to a cosmic battle involving a magnificent angel dispatched by God and a demonic prince who ruled over the kingdom of Persia at that time, referred to in Scripture as "the prince of Persia."

Prayer: Gracious Heavenly Father, we express our heartfelt gratitude for bestowing upon us the sacred ministry of prayer and fasting. Through prayer, we are empowered to navigate the spiritual realm with purpose and clarity. We thank You for guiding us in the foundational principles of spiritual warfare. In the mighty name of our Lord Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

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Dr. Ian Ndlovu is the founder and leader of Divine Kingdom Baptist Ministries [DKBM] - Global, Divine Kingdom TV, and Johanan-Ian Leadership Trust [JILET]. He founded the church he currently pastors in May 2008. His main focus is on reaching out to individuals who are lost, have strayed from their faith, are experiencing stress, are feeling weak, or have been neglected, and sharing with them a message of hope, restoration, and renewal through Christ. Dr. Ndlovu strongly believes in balancing the teaching of God's word, the Bible, with the use of spiritual gifts from the Holy Spirit. He also emphasizes the importance of warfare prayer, adopting a balanced approach to fasting, and engaging in strategic and focused intercession.

Dr. Ian Ndlovu is happily married to Dr. Angel Ndlovu, a distinguished professional in the field of development studies, consulting, and social work. Within the realm of God's work, Dr. Angel Ndlovu possesses a deep devotion to evangelism, tending to the needs of the less fortunate, and the profound ministry of prayer. The divine calling of an Evangelist has been bestowed upon her by our Lord Jesus Christ. Additionally, their family has been graciously blessed by the Almighty with the gift of two sons, named Elishama and Jeduthun.

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