THE PRINCIPLE OF PRAYER

I will like you to close your eyes and pray the following prayer militantly, repeat after me;

Strange man assigned against my favor die in the name of Jesus.

Oh God arise and move me from labor to favor in the name of Jesus.

Divine favor locate my head in the name of Jesus.

My seasonal favor appear by fire in the name of Jesus.

Good doors shut against me open by fire in the name of Jesus.

My story will change to glory in the name of Jesus.

Satanic blanket covering my glory catch fire in the name of Jesus.

Every power that gathers to disgrace me, scatter in the name of Jesus.

I shall not miss my divine allocation in the name of Jesus.

My divine provision locate me now in the name of Jesus.

I shall be for signs and wonders in the name of Jesus.

Arrows of witchcraft fired to my prosperity, backfire in the name of Jesus.

Garment of poverty catch fire in the name of Jesus.

Unexpected breakthrough locate me by fire in the name of Jesus.

Poverty activating dream die in the name of Jesus.

Father in the name of Jesus, I call upon your letter of promotion; receive it now in the name of Jesus. Doors of breakthrough open for you now in the name of Jesus. Miracles, signs and wonders that will shock you, receive it now in the name of Jesus. Receive a change of story in the name of Jesus. Your level will change by fire in the name of Jesus. I prophesy, starting from today the world will hear from you, your star will shine and the world will celebrate you in the name of Jesus. Every agenda of untimely death for you and your family, scatter by fire in the name of Jesus. If you have sickness in your body, lay your hands on that place and as I call the name of Jesus three times, shout along with me. I read a book recently, the mother of the author had cancer and they told her she had few weeks to live, Jesus appeared and twenty years after she is still alive. Some don't know that Jesus is a healer; today the angel of healing is here, whatever that name of sickness is, as you shout the name of Jesus that sickness will disappear in the name of Jesus. You are healed in Jesus name.

Our Heavenly Father we thank you for today, we thank you for your power and grace upon our lives, thank you for keeping us alive, we pray that you will speak to us today with this message in the name of Jesus.

Today's sermon is titled **THE PRINCIPLES OF PRAYER**

Proverbs 22 vs 28, ***Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set.***

There are principles of prayers. There are a lot of people who are praying and they are not conversant with these principles.

WHAT ARE PRINCIPLES; they are standards, bases, formulas, fundamentals, regulations, truth, doctrine, dogma, rule that influence action. A principle can be called a law or theory that something is based upon. A principle can either be a general or scientific law that explains how things work or why things happen. Principles are universal, if you break principle, principle will break you. Principle doesn't respect you, it doesn't know you, if you apply principles, it will work for you. principle enable us to predict the future, for instance if you have maize and you refuse to eat it rather you plant it on a good soil, all things being equal you will have a bountiful harvest, but if you eat the maize you will not see any harvest.

Prayer has principles that make it work. The only joy of prayer is for it to be answered and the only evidence of prayer is result. There are several principles that guide prayer and we will be studying one of those principles.

James 5 vs 16, ***Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.***

The first principle of prayer is that prayers must be fervent for it to be effective and yield results. Fervent means something that is

burning, hot, passionate, and emotional; something that you are enthusiastic about, you must be zealous and passionate about it.

Prayer must be fervent, take for instance in our physical world, if you have an appointment with a president of a country and you are before the president, you must be at alert, the president cannot be talking to you and you are dozing off or pressing your phone. If we can be serious before a mortal man, how much more the almighty God. Prayer is hard work, it requires our full concentration, it requires us to be passionate about it, prayer is an appointment with the creator of the whole universe, and we must apply seriousness to prayer. When you pray your body, soul and spirit must know that you have prayed. The first principle of prayer is that prayers must be fervent for it to yield answers.

EXAMPLES OF PEOPLE WHO PRAYED FERVENTLY IN THE BIBLE

1. **ELIJAH** 1Kings 18 vs 41-44,

And Elijah said unto Ahab, Get thee up, eat and drink; for there is a sound of abundance of rain.

1Ki 18:42 ***So Ahab went up to eat and to drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; and he cast himself down upon the earth, and put his face between his knees,***

1Ki 18:43 ***And said to his servant, Go up now, look toward the sea. And he went up, and looked, and said, There is nothing. And he said, Go again seven times.***

1Ki 18:44 ***And it came to pass at the seventh time, that he said, Behold, there ariseth a little cloud out of the sea, like a man's hand.***

And he said, Go up, say unto Ahab, Prepare thy chariot, and get thee down, that the rain stop thee not.

Elijah was praying for rain and the rain came and the bible made us to know the processes, Elijah put his head in between his knees, that is talking about fervency, passionate prayer, prayer that came from the heart. That is not a child's play prayer, it was a serious prayer, he put his head in between his knees and he told his servant to go and look whether the is result, he came back and said there is no result. Elijah was not perturbed, he kept on and at the seventh time, we didn't know how long he prayed each of the times his servant went up to check before God answered him.

Beloved, sometimes you need to inconvenient yourself before heaven will respond; the ice cream prayer that some people are praying is the reason why answers haven't come. Your prayer requires your full attention. You cannot want the Almighty God to send down his angel when you are not serious, you are praying and your mind is wandering about, you are thinking of the food you will eat, or you are selling market somewhere. Elijah put his ear in between his knees, he concentrated, he was passionate, and that was why answer came.

2. **HANNAH** 1Samuel 1 vs 9

She has been going to Shiloh, she has been crying, people have been mocking her, calling her names but on this particular day in Shiloh she decided to change her method. The bible said,

Hannah rose up and went to the temple and she was praying, she prayed to an extent that the priest thought she was drunk, how does drunk people behave; they stagger, they talk and behave abnormally, that means Hannah was praying in an abnormal way up to the point that the priest thought she was drunk, that is a fervent prayer. The priest told her is it too early for you to be drunk and she got her result.

Beloved, we must add fervency to our prayers in order to get result.

3. **JACOB** Genesis 32 vs 24

He wrestled all night in prayer. Why did he have to wrestle; he deceived his elder brother and he sold his birthright, he collected his blessing and Esau vowed that when he sees Jacob he will kill him, and so Jacob ran. Twenty years later, he was returning home, news got to him that his brother is coming with four hundred men, he was petrified, he was glittering and all he could do was to go into prayer, he prayed fervently up to the point that the angel told him to let him go and he say no, I won't let you go and his story changed.

4. **MOSES** Exodus 17

There was a war and the bible said whenever his hands are raised up in prayer Israel prevailed but whenever his hands come down the enemy prevailed.

I don’t know how you have been saying your prayers, but the prayer prayed that your mind isn’t, maybe because you are pressing your phone, answering phone call, watching television, that is not a prayer session, ypu are only playing. You cannot be talking to God Almighty without being serious.

5. **THE APOSTLES** Act 4 vs 24-31

And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is: Who by the mouth of thy servant David hast said, Why did the heathen rage, and the people imagine vain things? The kings of the earth stood up, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord, and against his Christ. For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together, For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done. And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word, By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus. And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.

The apostles were threatened for preaching the gospel, the bible said they went to their own company and they prayed and the place was shaking. Close your eyes and repeat after me; glory killers pursuing my glory, die in the name of Jesus.

6. **OUR LORD JESUS** Christ Luke 22 vs 44

Jesus prayed fervently for the will of God to be established in his life, he went to the garden of Gethsemane and he prayed fervently.

7. **ESTHER**, Esther 4 vs 1

When Haman plotted to kill the Jews, Mordecai sent a message to Esther and they fasted and prayed and in Esther 7, the gallow which Haman prepared for Mordecai he was the one that was hanged there. I pray for you, every plan of the enemy against you shall blow up in their faces in the name of Jesus.

WHEN DO YOU NEED TO PRAY FERVENT PRAYER

What are those things that will happen that will warrant you to engage in fervent prayer.

1. When your life is at stake.
2. When you are being threatened, it's not a time to keep quiet, that was what the apostle did, they prayed and God intervened.
3. When you have been pushed to a corner by people and the battle of life.
4. When the enemies are mocking you even to your face.
5. When you are being harassed.
6. When all hope seems lost.
7. When there is an evil report against you.
8. When the enemies are gaining upper hand.
9. When you are at your with end.

10. When you are tired of being tired.
11. When the enemies are gathered against you are powerful and many.
12. When you are having dream of death constantly.
13. When revelation of death keeps coming from people about you or your loved ones.
14. When you are facing disgraceful situation.
15. When problem refuses to go away.
16. When people are already using your problems to tag or give you names.
17. When you are being ridiculed.
18. When you don’t know what to do next.
19. When your source of income is at stake.
20. When you have merciless enemy.
21. When your enemies have the support of higher powers, just like Haman went to seek the king consent to destroy the Jews.
22. When people and enemy are bent on destroying you.
23. When you want the will of God to be fulfilled in your life.
24. When you know the enemy is planning against you.
25. When you have wicked and arrogant enemies.

We must increase the fire and tenacity of our prayers; we must not pray passionless prayers, if you want God to move you also must demonstrate it in the place of your prayer.

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO IN ORDER TO PRAY FERVENT PRAYER

1. Give your life to Christ, be born again, and repent of your sins.
2. Make up your mind from today never to be lazy in the place of prayer either it's a personal or cooperate prayer. Some Christians are too lazy when it comes to prayer. Prayer that moves mountains, you cannot be lazy with it; prayers that solve problems must be said fervently.

If you make up your mind to turn your personal and co-operate prayer to a serious matter, there are problems that will be solved in your life without even praying about them. When the fire of your prayer becomes hot then heaven will begin to move.

Are you here today and you are allergic to prayer, you don't like praying, they force you to pray, even in church you will not pray, you are doing a terrible thing to yourself. Pray but pray fervently, it is only the effectual fervent prayer if a righteous man that will yield result. If a righteous man is not fervent in prayer he will not get result, prayer must be said with your energy, with concentration, with vigor and strength for it to yield result.

I showed you the example of Elisha, in the sovereignty of God, there are some prayers that won't cause you anything, before you say Father in the name of Jesus, he would have answered. When Elijah was praying for fire, as he was praying fire came but

for rain to fall he prayed fervent prayer. Those problems that are not going away require fervency in prayer.

3. Another thing you need to do is to cultivate the habit of praying promptly. Immediately Haman got the consent of the king to kill the Jews. Mordecai arose immediately, he put on sack cloth and he sent message to Esther that this is the time to pray and fast, if you don't do anything now, don't think you will be free.

When you have bad dream, stand up immediately and cancel it. When negative report comes immediately cancel it. If a lot of Christian form the habit of praying when it matters most, most problems will be solved, some will wait for the problem to gather, it would have been solidified and become concrete before they start praying about it.

4. Let your body soul and spirit be involved in prayers. That is the prayer that will change story. Are you here today, you have problem that refuse to go away or you say you have been praying and nothing happened, I want to tell you today that God is ever constant, he never change, sleep or die, he answers prayers, you are the one that need to change your approach.

God answered prayers, just like Hannah she has been going to Shiloh and in Shiloh people get miracle every year but she goes there and she wasn't serious but the day she decided, God told her that he has always been here, you are the one not using the

right principle and the day she decided to use the right principle, heaven intervened. As you go into the 70days fasting and prayers, make sure you pray fervently, don't pray as though they forced you to, pray with passion, purpose, with an intention, pray because you want something to happen and cultivate the habit to pray fervently anywhere you find yourself, any opportunity you have pray, because prayer never dies, they even outlive those who pray them.

If you are lazy in prayer, if you think that prayer is too hard, you will say do I need to shout, do I need to pray for one hour, beloved, one of the principles of prayer is that it must be fervent and you cannot be talking to God without being serious, you can't be praying and at the same time doing something else.

Today we will pray some prayer, rise on your feet and close your eyes; we will pray this prayer point like a wounded lion. After God answered Hannah and she was sharing her testimony, she said had I know that God normally weigh actions, she understood that God weigh actions, your attitude, seriousness when you are praying heaven look at them, I have been a pastor for some time, I have seen member, these Christian who takes prayer seriously they have testimony, they don't joke with it, they may not be all that perfect but when they come to prayer their story always change.

Several years ago we had a woman, she is a single mother with three boys little income, but she know how to pray, she will tell

me pastor all my children must be a graduate, I saw one of the children recently and today they are doing very well, they prayers of the mother made them who they are. I beg you from today, whatever opportunity you have whether it is your personal or cooperate prayer, put away gentility because you don't know what God want to do and do you know one thing about cooperate prayers, God may have it in mind to bless one person but because of your seriousness you can tap from it, stop complaining, change your approach, God still answers prayer.

Some weeks ago, a mother brought her child, she said she has spent money and this problem is not going and we prayer simple prayer and the story changed. God is constant; you are the one to change your approach.

Close your eyes, raise your hands and say this prayer of confession, Lord Jesus, I come to you today I know that I am a sinner, forgive me oh Lord, wash me with your blood and I promise to serve you all the days of my life. Help me Lord in Jesus name Amen.

Lord I thank you for this soul giving his or her life to you, uphold him or her to the end in the name of Jesus Amen.

If you don't know that God answered prayer, take a look at Covid-19, look at Africa, look at Nigeria, developed countries will say all they do is pray and pray call upon God, now they have seen that there are problem that their science cannot solve. Every human is a spiritual being and the source is God.

Close your eyes and say this prayer with acidic anger, powers that have seen my beautiful future and have vowed to kill it; you are a liar die by fire in the name of Jesus. In this month you will receive double promotion, you have been waiting on it for long, and you will receive double in the name of Jesus.

Powers that have vowed to spoil my work, do you know that when they want to spoil someone's life what they do is to attack that persons work, I speak the word of authority, all battles that they used to attack your place of work, the thunder of heaven will strike against them in the name of Jesus.

A young man came to my office years ago, they spoilt his work, the wife said she cannot take the work because the managing director was her former boyfriend in school and because they are suffering they collected the job and eventually the wife was collected from him. That is why I said you should pray this prayer; all battles that want to turn your work to another thing may the thunder of heaven will strike against them in the name of Jesus. Say power that vowed to spoil my work, you are a liar; die in the name of Jesus.

Powers, sickness, disease that has vowed to kill me before my time, you are a liar, die in the name of Jesus.

Thank you Father, thank you Son and thank you Holy Spirit, in Jesus name we pray.